

# Maclean's

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Photo: Stephen Park



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Heritage you can taste.

# Maclean's

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE MAY 28, 1993 VOL. 133 NO. 22

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## COVER

### SEX, SAND AND CELLULOID

On the beach, the starlets pool their clothes off for the hordes of photographers. In the ocean-side hotels, the distributors and producers work their deals. The parties go all night. And on dozens of screens, the movies run of all hours. The 43rd annual International Film Festival in Cannes is living up to its reputation as a 12-day orgy of glamour, commerce and art.

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## CANADA

### AN UNLIKELY MEECH ALLY

A parliamentary report aimed at breaking the Meech Lake deadlock drew a favorable response from the three hold-out provinces. And Maclean's has learned that proponents of a deal have outlined the help of Jean Chrétien, the leading candidate for the Liberal leadership, to resolve the impasse.

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## WORLD

### EXPLOSIVE TALKS

On the eve of a Washington summit between presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev next week, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze announced progress in Moscow on a treaty to reduce the superpowers' arsenals of long-range nuclear missiles.

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## LETTERS

### HIGH RATES FUEL INFLATION

Ever since the early 1960s, I have been aware of the futility of trying to control inflation by manipulating interest rates ("The governor's gambit," *Cover*, May 7). Interest, as a substantial cost of operations, falls inflation rather than cooling it. This was proven by the 10-year Liberal experiment in 1961-1962, when rates were increased into the 30-per-cent range before revenues were cut in 1963 and 1964, when interest rates were sharply dropped, followed by a drop in inflation rates. Bank of Canada governor John Cross admits that his interest-rate effort has not been successful, but he still plans to continue and he still talks about zero inflation. As long as we have 3% to 5% per cent wage increases annually, such talk is shockingly ridiculous, and from a man who is supposed to be a financial expert.

Carl Marzio,  
Brooklyn, Ont.

It never ceases to amaze me how we seem to accept actions by our government that would not or could not happen in the private sector. In "The governor's gambit," you blamed the national debt crisis on "a family with our parents and a mortgage," and said that this family is forced to borrow more "when the real cost of meeting interest rates exceeds the rate of income growth." I suggest that a family would instead be forced to either sell assets for have taxes repressed or reduce spending. Collectively, we allow our government to borrow limitless amounts of money and collect an ever-increasing amount of taxes.

Vince Fossan,  
Brampton, Ont.

John Cross and Michael Wilson are wrong in counting the big foreign investors to the exclusion of wily miners of reducing the national debt. Financing the debt is destroying the best part of Canada—our social programs, environmental programs and health care. Many people would like to reduce the debt not rather than have an even larger burden passed on to their children and grandchildren. Some have advocated directly donating to a debt-reduction fund, others have proposed a lottery. Members of the middle-class must be made to feel that their social actions make a difference and that their jobs and financial prospects are less vulnerable to the whims of the international money markets.

Wendy Nordman,  
Aurora, B.C.

### PEGGING A PREMIER

Alan Petheringham has certainly got Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan pegged ("John Buchanan's missed opportunity," *Cov-*



Cross: an "absolutely ridiculous" effort

er, April 30). The political assembly that expects far-outgoing to sell a deal that cannot be sold on its merit clearly wants Meach Lake to be a litmus test of patriotism. Don't Buchanan's voters of steadfast allegiance to

the winning side, what this cardboard Canadian and his cohorts worship is the status quo. And here I thought we were better informed.

Steve Shand,  
Coppermine, N.W.T.

### PRIVATE AIRPORTS AND VIA?

Perhaps Canadians should look no further than the privatisation of our busiest airports ("New ground rules," *Business*, April 16) for the purpose behind termination of Via Rail's principal transcontinental service. The last thing investors would want is a rail service attracting business away from their lucrative but potentially risky airport investments.

Charles Bruce  
Rhymer, Sask.

### BEHIND THE MASK

In Thelma Fraser's column on gossipeders ("In praise of the masked maverick," *Sports Week*, May 7), there was not even a mention of probably the greatest gossipeder in the world—the Edmonton Oilers' Grant Fuhr.

Ken and Margaret Broadhead,  
Barrie, Ont.

## PASSAGES

**DEED:** British-born actress Jill Ireland, 54, six years after a mastectomy, at her home near Los Angeles, of cancer. Ireland appeared in more than 30 films, often with her husband, Charles Bronson, 57, including *Death Wish 1* (1962) and *Breakout* (1975). Following her surgery in 1984, the cancer went into remission, but last year it spread to her lungs, hips, thighs and thyroid. Through her frequent speaking engagements and two best-selling books on her struggle, *Life With Love* (1986), Ireland became an eloquent advocate for women facing mastectomies and a symbol of courage and determination for those with terminal diseases. Ireland was working on a third book before her death.



**DEED:** A seldom-mentioned controversial psychology professor Philippe Ruchoux, 46, after today as usual performance review conducted by his academic peers at the University of Western Ontario in London. He had been widely attacked by members of the scientific community for his theory of an intelligence pecking order with Orientals at the top, followed by whites, then blacks.

**CHARGED:** Christian Brando, 33, the perk test actor son of Marlon Brando, 96, with the shooting murder of soldier Doug Dorfield, 56, the Vietnam War veteran of Clinton Brando's program left center, Cheyenne 22. According to police, the incident occurred on the Brando family's hillside estate near Los Angeles. Christian's mother was Brando's first wife, actress Anna Karina, while Cheyenne was the name of the

relationship with Tibetan actress Tashi Tsering.

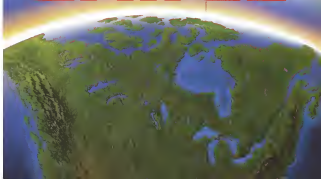
**RECOVERING:** Former hostage Robert Pollard, 55, from a four-hour operation to remove his cancerous larynx, at an area hospital in Washington, Pollard, an American business president, was freed in Beirut in April 82, more than three years after he was abducted in that city by members of a pro-Iranian Shiite sect.

**DEED:** Twenty-year veteran of the Soviet Union's governing Politburo Andrei Kirilenko, 84, after a "grave illness," according to the Soviet news agency TASS, in Moscow. A close associate of former party chief Leonid Brezhnev, Kirilenko had not appeared in public since 1982, when he retired from government.

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# OPENING NOTES

Prince Edward creates an instant celebrity, Mary Collins wins behind closed doors, and George Bush runs down reporters

## A WIN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Mary Collins had a hot potato dumped squarely in her lap when she received cabinet responsibility for the status of women in February—three days after budget cuts slashed \$1.2 million in federal support from 78 women's centres across Canada. Initially, the associate minister of national defence radio-teled cabinet solidarity with Secretary of State Gerald Walser; the minister responsible for overseeing such grants the cuts were awarded to help reduce the federal deficit. But Conservative officials say that Collins began lobbying for restored funding after she started visiting affected centres—and



Collins lobbying others for funds

became convinced that the cuts would diminish such essential services as counselling for battered women in many small communities. She switched places for an odds with Walser, who continued to defend the reductions, party leaders say. After two months of battling alone in cabinet, Collins persuaded Deputy Prime Minister David Hazenkowski and Justice Minister Kim Campbell to argue for restored funding before the powerful 10-member expenditure review committee chaired by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. And on May 4, Walser was met in the House of Commons when Collins announced that the government had restored \$1.2 million in 1990 funding to the women's centres. Walser stayed away that day, according to one Tory official, because he felt as if he had been beaten up for the money.

## Pulling the wool over Western eyes

As it contemplates a shift to a free-market economy, the Soviet Union is experimenting with Western business methods—and having mixed results. Indeed, the current issue of *Business Contact*, a glossy magazine published in several languages by the USSR Chamber of Commerce, features an increasingly isolated sales technique: *chavkanie*. To that end, a headline on a business advertisement reads: "How to get off luxury to the best advantage?" Geomorphologists of warm and soft skin is one of the secrets? Accompanying that full-page ad for the Lantana-based Ogas Knitwear Co. is a photograph of a smiling woman dressed only in strategically placed strands of colorful yarn. As a result, Jennifer Ellis, a representative of Vancouver-based MediaWatch, expressed her disappointment that *Business Contact* had copied what she



Soviet knitwear ad: "How to get off luxury?"

described as one of advertising's most attractive features. Said Ellis: "It sounds pretty typical. That kind of thing comes part and parcel with capitalism." Fortunately for Ogas Knitwear, MediaWatch's mandate does not yet extend to Latvia.

## FLAGGING DOWN A STATE CRISIS

Nikolai Gorbachev's pending arrival sparked a crisis in Ottawa recently when federal public works officials discovered a shortage of a crucial item: Soviet flags. Said department spokesman Gerald Wharton: "We normally need 400 to 500 flags for a state visit and we had only 250 on hand." Eight employees at a Toronto firm have worked overtime to make an additional 160 flags—at a cost of \$5,000. And with a May 24 delivery date—five days before the Soviet leader arrives—Wharton predicts that Ottawa will pass the flag test with flying colors.



Edward (left): Cooper posing as the duped champion of North America

## A RIGHT ROYAL PRACTICAL JOKE

In 1987, Prince Edward cosigned 48 celebrities, among them movie star Kevin Kline and former Canadian skiing champion Steve Podbrsic, to compete in *Kisselbeck*, a televised event for charity that featured jousting and other medieval sports. Now, Brian Cooper of Toronto has told *Maclean's* that the prince's powers of persuasion worked on him as well. When one of the star-studded teams needed another member, the prince convinced Toronto-based Billie Con-

stantinatos to be president to pose as "the duped champion of North America." During his stay in the limelight, Cooper strove to avoid reporters who were seeking genuine celebrities but he appeared in pictures that ran in such publications as *Newsweek*, *Time* and *People*. Said Edward, in a personal letter to Cooper: "It was kindly sporting of you and a successful practical joke. I am still laughing." When jousting commenced, duped champions are quick to respond.



Canadian film extras blow up the battlefield

## Samurai she-warriors

Twenty Canadian women flew May 6 for a 35-day tour of Japan to promote the movie *Samurai and Earth*, a samurai epic that director Haruki Kadokawa partly filmed near Calgary last summer. The 17 blonde, two brunette and one redheaded women, 2,800 male and female extras who averaged 5'8", best dressed in the armor-clad foot soldiers of feudal 16th-century Japanese warriors. Movie producer Larry Woberger credibly acknowledged that the women's youth—and the fact that most are blonde—had deterred their selection. Said Woberger: "There is one such thing as a blond, female samurai. These 20 are a bit of a can't as Japan and are at demand by the media. When you are selecting a bunch of people to promote something, you pick those who are the most 'usable'." The women will not receive any wages for helping to promote the film. Still, director Kadokawa expressed the hope that extras who played the part of sword-wielding warriors will experience a bonus, greater Japan during their free trip to his homeland. Said Kadokawa: "I hope the ladies learn something of our traditional way of life—the tea ceremony and flower arranging." Since Canadian women have come a long way from the battlefield to flower arranging.

## Bad luck in an envelope

Paranormal Pictures associate Erik Van De Bunt maintains that he is not superstitious. Still, when he received a huge check letter that is currently circulating among entertainment industry offices in Los Angeles, he, like hundreds of others, sent copies of the 50-page invoice to five friends. Said Van De Bunt: "I saw my boss's name on it and I figured, if he had passed it on, I would pass it on." Added Fox TV production president Marvin Kattman: "I would have checked it out, but the letter came just as we were getting ready for the fall." No one cares to cross Lady Luck.

## NOW PLAYING AT THE LOVEDOME

Some here are suggesting a name change for Toronto's SkyDome—with Exhibition Stadium and the LoveDome among the favorites. The reason: during a May 15 game between the Jays and the Florida Marlins, a male and a woman made love behind the visor of a fourth-floor hotel room that opens directly on the playing field. SkyDome Hotel manager Ray Thompson said that he hoped to avert future incidents by posting notices in the 70 rooms that overlook the field. They will remind guests that "when you open the drapes, you become part of the stadium. You can see things they can't see you." But Thompson would not identify the onscreen couple, saying that he "wanted to respect their privacy." It is a little late for that.

## RUNNING DOWN THE MEDIA

Early each morning, about 30 members of the travelling press camp watch George Bush go jogging—usually in the company of two journalists who have accepted the President's invitation to run with him. Initially, many reporters wrote to the President, but that opinion declined sharply when it became apparent that Bush sen-



Bush's lecture on physical fitness

ior decreased matters of substance during those running chats. Indeed, no one volunteered to accompany Bush to the White House, S.C., recently when Bush asked for running partners—leading the President to deliver an impromptu lecture on physical fitness. Said Bush: "A fit America cannot include reporters who simply sit back in the grandstands while some of us are out running." In response, reporters who frequently log 16-hour days covering Bush's activities say that playing with the President is not part of their job.

# H<sub>2</sub>Oh-Oh



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## AN AMERICAN VIEW



### 'What a waste, not to have a mind'

BY FRED BRUNING

**D**an Quayle is well into the second year of his vice-presidency and neither has he been impeached nor laughed out of office nor photographed in Hawaii, all signs, with a Perfect 10 warning his boss. He still has plenty of time, of course, but the morning line on Quayle is that he just won't meet his early billing.

If we thought the vice-president would prove exactly the spoiled, empty-headed glutton boy originally advertised, perhaps we expected too much. Just because he came to the plate, and no, that, it turned out, could the vice-president consistently achieve the virtuous level of ignorance that once prompted a political acquaintance to observe that when Dan Quayle is asked to turn off a light, "by the time he gets to the switch he's forgotten what he went for."

On the contrary, there have been a number of articles suggesting the vice president has what appears to be natural intelligence. *The New York Times* revealed in a June Sunday magazine article last year that Dan Quayle reads—and not just Dr. Seuss, either. *Nation* related the *Times*, Quayle had been pursuing Charles de Gaulle's *The Edge of the Sword*, a meditation on war. Paul Johnson's *Madre Terra*, which profiles a number of territorial despots, and Richard Nixon's *London*, in which the former president recalls conversations with Khrushchev, Ben-Gurion and others. The message was inescapable. Not only does Dan Quayle read! but Dan Quayle thinks!

Also advanced in stories about Quayle is the notion that his reputation as a gluttonizing soft act who exists only in the imitative application of letters from his little books is fact—that the vice-president is rather quickly acquiring a sense of priorities that he may have lacked in his early days as a senator from Indiana, when the boyish Quayle seemed disposed to do as little house filing as possible. "I know one conservative I don't want—Jackie!"

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Fred Bruning is a writer with *Newsday* in New York.

*Americans are  
reluctant to believe  
that the old  
Dan Quayle, who  
ducked Vietnam,  
has changed*

ated Quayle after his 1980 election victory: "They are going to be dealing with all those issues like abortion, housing, voting rights, prayer. I'm not interested in those issues, and I want to stay as far away from them as I can."

Finally, we are introduced by Quayle's in-town biographers that he has nearly avenged his penchant for exactly that sort of dizzy public disclosure and has, at last, mastered the technique of marching his thoughts before imposing his mouth. Yes, he greeted by calling American Senators "happy campers" and lauded into incoherence at a United Negro College Fund luncheon by attempting to improve the group's slogan, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste," with his own word association. "What a waste it is to lose one's mind," said Quayle. "Or not to have a mind." The new, improved Dan Quayle is feeling much better, we are instructed. He is, as *Time* magazine declared in a cover story, "No joke."

There is a singular view of matters, however, because the American people, in their grand and often astonishing wisdom, beg to disagree. If the opinion polls are accurate, Americans are not swayed by obnoxious assessments of the vice-president. They are in no way convinced that the old Dan Quayle—the

one who ducked the Vietnam War while claiming to run the soldiers, the fellow who did so poorly in college that he still sought a low his grades to be reinstated but somehow got into law school anyway, the guy whose family is swayed by the screwball staff of reactionary politics—has been so conveniently overhauled.

A recent Gallup survey indicated that whereas 46 per cent of the population in October, 1986 viewed Quayle as qualified for the presidency, the number dropped to 34 per cent the next May and swooned all the way to 31 per cent this March. When the question was turned a bit this spring and folks were asked if they considered Quayle specifically unqualified to assume the Oval Office, 52 per cent said quick, but the White House does—an increase of 10 points over a previous poll.

Quayle has been traveling the globe and meeting foreign leaders and doing all the obvious, unobvious ceremonial chores required of an individual in his position. With astute and great loyalty and what he calls "total preoccupation," Quayle has served the President who plucked him from his, far beyond obscurity and brought him so near the seat of power.

And still, something tells the American people to look with increasing skepticism at J. Danforth Quayle. Something tells them he did not, at age 43, suddenly become scholar and sage. Perhaps the nation has had time to reflect on the odd and unlikely tenure of Ronald Reagan, whose belatedness over the imperious abilities of high office caused one exasperated Democrat to describe him as an "affable dunc"—a term that stuck. Still, with a mixture of happy talk and wary answers, Reagan transacted the majority he had no time, but who could? One might have thought Ronald Reagan would prepare the way for Dan Quayle. Maybe he did the opposite.

With his ratings to decline, Quayle could cause trouble for George Bush. If the vice president is apt to cause constant drag in 1990, Bush may have to consider terminating him. Incoming president Bush would like to run with his good buddy, Secretary of State James Baker, or perhaps with department of housing and urban development chief Jack F. Fritzel. William Bennett, the so-called drug czar, wouldn't mind a spot on the ticket, although with much more than good press—well, not so much—as bench mark. Bennett lacks like a long shot, Dick Cheney, the defense secretary, and Richard Thornburgh, head of the justice department, are said to be ambitious, though low on the presidential scoring report.

Disappointing, then, that after one term could produce considerable trouble for Quayle in a popular guy with good looks and rightable progress and the going that still seems to be U.S. voters grading through Central America—well, Bush can't afford to trifling with his base of support. Eager to be elected at all costs, Bush typed a letter to vice-presidents because he had paid too long to an obedient nation. Now the chief executive has a problem. As the articles say, Dan Quayle may not be as dense as first believed. Happily the American people aren't either.

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# AN UNLIKELY MEECH ALLY

**THE TORIES CALL ON JEAN CHRETIEN FOR LAST-MINUTE HELP IN RESCUING THE MEECH LAKE ACCORD**

There were no guarantees of success and much work still remained to be done. But by the end of last week, the optimists at least among Canada's politicians could sense the beginnings of compromise on the package of constitutional changes that has often divided the country as much as united it. In Ottawa, the Prime Minister and at least three federal parties endorsed the report of a committee of the House of Commons that identified 22 areas where the Meech Lake accord could be amplified in a separate document in order to address concerns about its effects—but which also urged the country to ratify the accord before its June 23 deadline. And outside the capital, the report was greeted with unusual enthusiasm from the three dissenting provinces in Manitoba, Newfoundland and New Brunswick who have so far blocked a constitutional amendment. Said Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells, "until last week an implacable critic of the deal." "I am confident [that] if the last minutes sit down together, we can probably work something out."

Still, the steps back from the precipice of constitutional

failure were at best tentative. In Quebec, Liberal Premier Robert Bourassa made it clear that one central demand of the opposing conservative might be too much for his province to accept. A constitutional clause recommended by the committee, stating clearly that Meech Lake's recognition of Quebec as a "distinct society" would not impair individual rights, for instance, amounted to an "unacceptable demand." With that, Bourassa ensured that any settlement would be forced to address a conflict between individual and minority rights that, in different forms, has bedevilled Canada from its earliest days. Meanwhile, Atlanticers learned that the Conservative government's search for support for a constitutional settlement had extended to an unlikely ally—Jean Chretien, the leading but as-yet unselected candidate for the federal Liberal leadership.

Rarely, a resolution to the ongoing constitutional debate would require such an unusual mix of and flexibility from all sides. For its part, the 15-member parliamentary committee, chaired by Sherbrooke, Que., Tory MP Jean Chretien, endorsed the concept of a so-called "compromise resolution" to Meech Lake, that proposed last month by New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna. The committee urged that a compromise resolution include a time limit on the accord's requirement of unanimous provincial consent for Senate reform, after which a more "moderate" formula would be adopted. In addition, it asked for recognition of aboriginal peoples and urged that the accord's terms not conforming provincial status on the northern territories be retained.

But the committee stopped short of issuing its recommendations in dissenting provincial legislatures. That was left to federal and provincial officials, who had already begun the delicate task of fleshing out the details of the



Chretien in his Ottawa office; Chretien (left) recent talks to end the impasse before the Liberal leadership vote

Meech Lake's detractors to embrace the agreement. For his part, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney dispatched Senator Lowell Murray on a weekend tour of the provincial capitals to assess the prospects for a settlement. Mulroney indicated that a positive report would lead to a First Ministers meeting, probably in Ottawa and possibly as early as this week, to approve the final text of a constitutional resolution that would include the eleven-hour ratification of Meech Lake.



It was Chretien's hitherto secret role in the negotiations that, as much as anything, distracted the lengths to which the federal government appeared willing to go to secure a settlement. Chretien has been a leading critic of the accord since it was signed in June, 1987. But with his last over rival candidates for the Liberal leadership now all but unworkable, Chretien's detractors identified privately that they would like to have the Meech Lake debate settled before the June 28 leadership convention. Said one inside Chretien adviser: "Taking into account the long-term relationship he has to have with Quebec, obviously it would be better for

Chretien to have Meech Lake put behind him." As a result, Chretien's team has been working willingly alongside the Tories for at least a month to help resolve the Meech Lake impasse. Using intermediaries, Stanley Hart, Mulroney's chief of staff, sought Chretien's views regularly on writing for a compromise resolution that the former Liberal cabinet minister could support. Said one senior Ottawa Tory: "Our guys are not making a move without talking to Chretien." In return, Hart has counted on Chretien to sway two of the accord's most outspoken and pivotal lobbyists: Newfoundland's Wada and Manitoba Liberal Opposition Leader Sharon Carstairs, whose party holds the balance of power in the legislature.

Publicly, Chretien avoided detailed comment on the committee's report. Speaking at Vancouver, he said only that he was happy to see the House of Commons report that Meech Lake had to be modified. But much of the report echoes charges that Chretien himself raised for a policy speech on the constitution last January. Among other things, Chretien cited them for a constitutional amendment that Meech Lake's distinct society clause does not override the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. With the Chretien committee's endorsement of that proposal—and Bourassa's prompt rejection of it—the issue immediately became the most likely to scuttle any emerging compromise.

Indeed, the looming crunch over the distinct society clause had born a conflict between competing political values that has deep roots in Canada's history. The Quebec politicians who helped form the country's original constitution, the 1867 British North America Act, sought and won special provisions designed to protect their province's language, culture and distinct French legal system. Since then, the notion that the rights of minorities may sometimes outweigh those of individuals has been invoked repeatedly by politicians across Canada to defend inviolability of public employment and protection for linguistic minorities that have sharply distinguished Canada from other countries, particularly the United States. The constant tension between community and individual rights underwent a profound change, however, with the adoption in 1982 of the Charter of Rights—with Quebec as the only dissenting province—which stated individual rights to pre-eminence.

While that trend plainly has strong support in English Canada, it is not that Quebec's negotiators are determined to create any constitutional statement affirming the relative standing of the Charter and the distinct society clause. Observed Bourassa last week: "When an amendment is proposed which says that the distinct society [claim] gives absolute priority to new power, it will be very difficult to reach an agreement." One senior Bourassa aide: "Our belief is that if distinct society ends up being watered down, then it is better to have no Meech Lake."

It quickly became clear that Bourassa and Mulroney have little room to maneuver if they

## A POST-MORTEM

A semester's report strongly criticized Montreal police and other emergency workers for responding too slowly to the Dec. 6 massacre at 14, was at the University of Montreal's engineering school. The report said that the death toll might have been higher if patients Marc Laporte, 25, had not decided to kill himself.

## MURDER CHARGES

Don George, 35, an opponent of violence on the Algonquin-Matthews Reserve, pleaded not guilty to a charge of second-degree murder in the shooting death of Mark W. Miller, Edwards, 32, Edwards and another man died during a two-hour gun battle on May 1 between anti- and pro-gangbangers in the streets.

## A CONTESTED SHOOTING

Matteo Tassone, an Ontario member of its own force, Const. Scott Adams, 35, with criminal negligence causing bodily harm after a black youth, Martin Noel, 16, was shot in the shoulder following a high-speed chase. Tassone is the fifth Toronto police officer charged in the past two years in four shootings involving blacks—two of them fatal.

## ARMED AND

Ontario has decided to proceed with a \$450-million RCMP firearms package, despite an earlier suggestion that the three Prairie provinces purchase federal funds. A similar and program for East Coast provinces did not require teaching grants from the Atlantic provinces.

## A SECRET COURT CASE

The Supreme Court of Canada released details of an unprecedented secret hearing held in early February after an appeal by Douglas Jernisse, a Montreal-based pilot and sex arbitrator on Columbia County, New Brunswick, into Jernisse's role in the Quebec Superior Court and that it had no jurisdiction to rule on a lawsuit by Jernisse, who claimed that the case had engaged so much to protect his parents. Amid concerns for the potential safety, the Supreme Court heard the appeal in secret and ruled that the case should proceed in the Quebec court.

## CLOSING ITS DOORS

Storied Canada announced that it is closing its two plants in St. Andrews, N.B. The plant was at the centre of a national scandal in 1985 when two public cases of toxic pollution there were found to be stained. That resulted in the resignation of then-Federal Minister John Prime, who had approved the sale of the two

with to reach their support among Quebecers. For his part, Parti Québécois leader Jacques Parizeau, whose party leads Bourassa's Liberals in provincial opinion polls, was scoffing at his condemnation of the proposed terms of a Meech compromise. "Quebec is not being asked to practice federalism on its knees," said Parizeau. "It is being asked to practice it on all fours and accept anything and everything."



**Félix Wille, Bourassa:** the stage is set for a last-ditch effort to salvage the accord

And on the second stage, Quebec Tory back-bencher François Gélis resigned from the party caucus to sit in Ottawa as an Independent, underscoring the depth of opposition towards any concessions among Maloney's Quebec caucus. Declared Gélis: "We rejected Canada to offer an unconditional 'Yes' to Quebec. Now, the Prime Minister has to choose between the interests of the other provinces of Canada and the interests of Quebec. I choose Quebec."

But Quebec did not close the door to all compromises. In fact, Jean-Claude Ruest, Bourassa's leading constitutional adviser, continued throughout last week to discuss compromise working to relieve the relationship between the fractious province and the center. And other provincial officials indicated that they were willing, with some conditions, to accept changes to Meech Lake's unending formula that might make Senate reform easier to achieve.

Several dissenters, including Newfoundland and Manitoba, have demanded such a change to return for their support of the accord. They have complained that Meech Lake would effectively prevent meaningful provincial reform of the upper house by giving every province a veto over any changes. Regarding to those concerns, Charvat's committee recommended that, if Senate reform is not achieved within a set time—a proposed three years—the Meech requirement for unanimous provincial

approval should be dropped in favor of a less restrictive formula, which it did not decline. At the same time, in order to allay apprehensions on Quebec's part that it would lose the right to reject reforms that it considered unacceptable, the committee recommended that any new amending formula include some form of regional veto. British Columbia Premier William Vander Zanden, for

mean difficulty now is saving face for some premiers," Pitsoe told Marlene's.

And there remained other battles on the road to a constitutional settlement. Pitsoe, for one, said that a Parti Québécois meeting would have to be held promptly if his provincial legislature is to have enough time to pass the accord and a companion resolution by June 23. In Manitoba, the process has to include at least 10 days of public hearings. And Newfoundland's Wells insisted on taking any agreement arrived at by the first sessions to public hearings in his province as well. Indeed, many participants expressed undiminished concerns that Wells' entrenched opposition remained the greatest obstacle to a deal. "Most elements for a deal are there," said McKenna. "But the premier of Newfoundland has to decide if he is prepared to make some concessions to Quebec."

But there were indications as well that politicians and ordinary Canadians alike were increasingly impatient to find a solution to the deadlock. According to a national poll conducted by Angus Reid Inc. between May 8 and 13, support for the Meech Lake accord would rise from 35 per cent to 53 per cent if it included a companion resolution similar to McKenna's. And fear for the consequences of a constitutional failure also appeared to be on the rise. Premier Alberta premier Peter Lougheed observed that such an outcome would carry an enormous cost in lost foreign investment. Added Lougheed, now a Calgary-based lawyer: "It will be a big economic price, and I am not very confident about Western Canada's ability to survive without a very diminished standard of living."

Despite that, pessimistic scenarios were far from the minds of those working towards a deal last week. One premier found a hopeful omen for the prospects of a settlement in Bourassa's willingness to allow Charlotta, a polished foe of long standing, to play an active role in the negotiations. And Charvat observed, as he presented his committee's report, that "there is a way out of this. There is some consensus." If so, the deal remained elusive.

**BRUCE WALLACE** with **KIM PITSOE** in Victoria; **KIM PITSOE** in Winnipeg; **DAVID KAMALA** in Toronto and **E. KATE PAXTON** in Ottawa

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# THE INSIDE STORY

## TOURING



## ONTARIO

By Eddie Greenstein

integrated that I would watch it for hours from the top of the Falls. It was always a great puzzle to me why it didn't sink when it would be so threateningly close to actually going under the Falls, or so I thought. I was married in Niagara Falls and recently my wife and a group of friends went back for a nostalgic trip to celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary. And for the first time in my life, I finally got up the courage to go on the Maid Of The Mist. It was literally the most remarkable ride I've ever been on. There is no better way of seeing Niagara Falls. One thing I did develop was a powerful respect for the Falls. It's absolutely awesome and people in Niagara Falls tend to forget that they have this beautiful world wonder at their doorstep. What I've always personally liked about Niagara Falls is that you can get into a car and within a very short period of time you can be in magnificent countryside. If you follow the Niagara River along you will end up in Niagara-on-the-Lake, one of the loveliest towns in all of Canada. Along the way you pass Queenston and the Floral Clock, viewing all the gorgeous homes. The countryside is spectacular and I never got bored with it. If you go the other way, towards Port Erie along the Niagara River you go through Chippewa which is such a pretty little town, I used to love going there and buying peaches. Living in Niagara Falls has all the advantages of living in a city but being within minutes of escape to the country. I've seen the Grand Canyon in Arizona, Ayers Rock in Australia and some of the great natural sights in the world but I don't think that anything holds a candle to the magnificence, beauty and sheer power of Niagara Falls. compiled by Laura O'Brien



Eddie Greenstein is one of Canada's top editorial writers. He is the author of "THE CASE FOR THE DEFENSE" which is currently out in paperback.

EDDIE GREENSTEIN answered MAGNUS BELLIS and you can find that page of THE INSIDE STORY and more information on travelling in Ontario call 800-JUNE 1. 800-GREENSTEIN in the Toronto area 361-4038 and T.O. (416) 593-0327.

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# Back to the future

## A new generation flirts with Quebec separatism

When Pierre Sevrin arrived in Canada in August to attend the University of Montreal, the 22-year-old student from France planned to study history, not politics. It is recent months, however, since that he has been automated by the rising tide in support for Quebec independence on the university campus—and among a whole generation of young Quebecers. Among the 44,000 students at the University of Montreal, he says, the only ones who openly support Quebec remaining in Confederation are those in the school's business program. And Sevrin predicts that many of his classmates will remain committed to an independent Quebec even if the March 31 constitutional referendum is held on the June 28 deadline. "Everyone I know is for independence," he observed. "They don't care what happens on June 28." In fact, many observers now believe that the debate over March 31 has opened more wounds in Quebec than its resolution would heal.

In a major public opinion poll conducted in March, 48 per cent of respondents from across the province said that they favoured outright independence for Quebec, compared with 32 per cent opposed to the idea. In another poll released last month, one-third of those respondents who said that they voted "no" in the 1980 referendum that rejected sovereignty-association for Quebec claimed that they would now vote "yes." Such a shift would be enough to leave the separatist forces victorious if the referendum were replayed. At the same time, 85 per cent of Quebecers interviewed said that they believe English Canada is essentially hostile towards Quebec. Said Michel Boudreau, past president of Quebec's national St. Jean Baptiste Society: "The collective reflection caused by the March 31 debate in Quebec is irreversible. Whatever happens, we have taken another step towards independence."

One measure of the new mood of Quebecers is a revived enthusiasm for the St. Jean Baptiste Day celebrations on June 24—the day after the March 31 constitutional deadline. Since the 1960s, the festival has often served as a rallying point for the province's independence movement. Indeed, during the 1984 federal election campaign, radical separatists threw bottles in the direction of

then-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau as they roared through a St. Jean Baptiste Day parade in Montreal. And in 1987, the Parti Québécois government of that time declared the date a "national holiday" in the province. But in May, 1986, after Trudeau's promised second Can-



Boudreau: "The climate in Canada is too hostile."

intervention in the course of an impassioned speech at Montreal's Parc Savoy arena, Quebecers rejected sovereignty association. After that, the celebrations became relatively subdued.

Ten years later, Quebec nationalists are again eager to turn St. Jean Baptiste Day into a mass celebration. Organizers say that they plan to stage a major parade through Montreal followed by a mass festival on the city's St.

St-Etienne. Said Boudreau, who is also chief festival organizer: "Quebecers want to wave the flag."

The new wave of nationalism has also returned some Old Guard separatists to a new prominence after years of political eclipse. Last month, a committee of young Parti Québécois members at Collège Édouard Montpetit, on Montreal's Fairview Street, invited poet and lawyer law lecturer Pierre Bouchard to speak at the school during a mock referendum on independence. When Bouchard told students in the packed assembly hall that English-speaking Canadians defiled Quebec francophones, they cheered. For his part, 18-year-old Martin Levalle was the only one of the school's 6,000 students to volunteer to organize a "no" campaign in the referendum. Said Levalle: "I asked people to help me, but everybody refused. I had to do it alone." When the ballot was read, 642 of the students voted in favor of independence, while only 58 voted against.

Such students have created a widespread sense in the province that Quebec's departure from Canada is inevitable. For his part, Pierre Fortin, 70, a retired farmer living in Quebec's Lac Saint-Jean region, about 200 km north of Quebec City, recalled that many of his separatist colleagues were crushed by the referendum defeat in 1980. Now, Fortin says, he will live to see an independent Quebec. He added: "The climate in Canada is too hostile for the country to stay together. It is too late for March 31 to change that."

At the same time, many Quebec nationalists have been disheartened by the revival of separatist sentiments. Peter Blais, a senior partner at the Montreal law firm Hensley Bédard, where Trudeau is a past lawyer, said that, even if March 31 is refuted, Quebec will continue to seek some autonomy. Declared Blais, who is also past chairman of Alliance Québec, an English-language rights group in the province: "A lot of people thought the constitutional question had been settled by the referendum. It will be the same with March 31. People who think it will eliminate uncertainty about Canada is a hallucination."

Still, the mere strength of independence sentiment is difficult to measure. Said Vincent Lamasse, a political science professor at Laval University:

"The crisis will certainly have lasting effects. But the support for independence is far from solid." He acknowledged: "There is a lot of enthusiasm in the air now, but it could easily die. We cannot go on emotion alone." But, meanwhile, supporters of an independent Quebec have rarely dropped such open and unabashed opinions.

DAN BURKE in Montreal

# Driving to the frontier

Northerners commemorate a historic road

**I**t was the road that was built. When the Japanese bombed the United States Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the prospect of an overland invasion of North America through the sparsely populated north Pacific Coast seemed alarmingly real. In response, the U.S. and Canadian governments promptly approved a plan for a 2,430-km road through the uncharted wilderness of the Yukon and Alaska. The road would connect a string of remote airbases and provide an alternative supply line should existing Pacific sea and air routes be shut down. By April, 1942, 11,000 U.S. army engineers and 6,000 civilian workers began to plan a seven-lane-wide pioneer road from Dawson Creek in northeastern British Columbia to Fairbanks in central Alaska—a route that cut through five mountain ranges and bridged more than 100 glacier-fed rivers. They completed their work just under eight months later. Now, northerners on both sides of the international border are laying the groundwork for a road of gala celebrations leading up to the 50th anniversary of that remarkable feat in November, 1990.

Although the military purpose of the historic road to Alaska disappeared within months of its completion on Nov. 30, 1942, the road itself was upgraded to handle commercial traffic and, immediately after the war, was transferred to Canadian control. Currently, the Alaska Highway serves as a vital trucking link for 30,000 Yukoners and 500,000 Alaskans. And, as its 50th anniversary approaches, organizers from Alaska, the Yukon and British Columbia are planning to sponsor memorial events in communities all along the present-day route. Enthusiasts are trying to persuade Canadian Bob Hope to travel north next summer to host a series of shows modelled on those staged for troops during wartime.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and President George Bush will also be invited to visit the region in 1990. And, as part of a \$10-million, four-year campaign, the committee this month launched its search for a principal corporate sponsor to donate \$2.5 million in exchange for extensive marketing rights for the festival.

A highway connecting Canada and Alaska

was first proposed before the war. Thomas Patullo, premier of British Columbia between 1933 and 1941, for one, advocated its construction as part of a large-scale proposal to sweep the Yukon and vast tracts of the Northwest Territories to his province. But both the U.S. and Canadian governments refused to commit the enormous expense in a region where grizzly bears outnumbered voters. All that changed with Pearl Harbor, however, and three months later the first U.S. troops arrived at the end of the railroad in Dawson Creek, 950 km northwest of Edmonton.

They were followed in short order by columns of soldiers' worth of tractors, bulldozers and other heavy equipment. An immediate challenge was to build a roadway over the muskeg—a form of bog up to 20 feet deep, composed of mosses, moose and spruce soil, that covers much of the North. Merrill Jerome Sheldon, 71, of Seattle, who worked as an army laborer on the project. "Part of the road would just turn to soggy mud as soon as the topsoil was uncovered." Eventually, the army employed a method familiar to 19th-century pioneers: cutting down trees and laying them across the road's route in order to support the gravel surface—a process known as corduroying. In some points, five layers of trees and gravel were required before the muskeg would support a truck's weight.

For the civilian laborers and the young soldiers—many of them black and from the southern states—the conditions were especially



The Alaska Highway near Reines Junction, Yukon; inspired by invasion threats

poisoning. Sam Sheldon. "The temperatures went down to 50 or 60 below [F], and we would have to cut down trees to beat our tails just to survive." Indeed, three workers on the project froze to death just a few kilometers outside of Whitehorse, Yukon, after their truck

was disabled by ice in its gas line. In another incident, a dozen men drowned when a muleskinner raft carrying them and their equipment across a lake capsized in a sudden squall.

But the occupation by the Japanese of two of the Aleutian Islands off the south-western coast

of Alaska in June, 1942, steeled the resolve of the military to complete the road in a single construction season—a task that was accomplished at the three-staggered cost of \$147 million. For a brief period, the roadway served as a lifeline for a number of small airports that were used to fly 8,000 aircraft to the Soviet Union to deter a Japanese attack. But, by the time the route was upgraded to an all-weather road the following year, the Japanese had been driven out of the Aleutians and sea communications on the Alaskan front were no longer endangered.

Under an earlier agreement between the two countries, Canada took over control of its section of the Alaska Highway in 1946, free of charge. Now, the federal government spends \$25 million annually maintaining its 1,254-km portion. The highway's condition ranges from flawless pavement in much of the Alaska section to bone-rattling potholes and dirt-road conditions further south. Mineral disasters, such as mudslides, periodically threaten the route. But the highway has helped the forestry, oil, mining and trucking industries operate in one of the most remote corners of the continent. And for the road's original builders, that is a source of immense satisfaction. Sam Sheldon, who began to take part in its 50th-anniversary celebrations: "As I look back, it was a big adventure, a big challenge—but we met it."

ERIAN BERGMAN with JIM BUTLER in Whitehorse



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## EXPLOSIVE TALKS



Baker and Shevardnadze in Moscow' mashing long-standing disagreements over sea- and air-launched nuclear missiles

Nobody ever said that it was going to be easy. Washington and Moscow first tried to reach agreement on a mutual 50-per-cent reduction in long-range nuclear weapons in time for the Ronald Reagan-Mikhail Gorbachev summit in Moscow in May 1988. When they failed to meet this deadline, hopes turned to the December 1989, Gorbachev-George Bush summit in Malta. And when an agreement emerged there, expectations were redirected towards the Bush-Gorbachev summit in Washington beginning next week, on May 28. There's a long and difficult winter for Gorbachev, prospects for a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (SALT) appeared to dim. While the Soviet exporting position stiffened markedly, the Americans began to seem less anxious for a rapid agreement. But last week, as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker completed four days of pre-summit

## ON THE EVE OF A SUPERPOWER SUMMIT, SOVIET AND U.S. LEADERS MAKE PROGRESS ON ARMS CONTROL

talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow, the two sides were again expressing optimism. "On trust," said Baker, "our goal has been to reach agreement on the major strategic issues by the time of the summit. We are in a position now, I think, to do so."

Looking tired at a news conference on Saturday, Baker said that disagreements over sea- and air-launched missiles had been resolved, but that other issues remained to be worked out. The treaty was originally intended to reduce the two sides' strategic nuclear armaments by 50 per cent, but qualifications have been added that would make the cuts closer to 35 per cent. Baker also said that a "confidence agreement" to ban superpower production of chemical weapons would be signed at the summit, by Hosoya, however, Bush struck a more cautious note, saying that the Kremlin must make more concessions in order to conclude a treaty early in time for the Washington meeting. "We want the Gorbachev summit to be a successful one," he told reporters. "It is going to take some give on the Soviet side, in my view."

Gorbachev's trip to Washington will follow

a 29-hour visit to Ottawa, where he will meet with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney—and is expected to encounter vocal protests by members of the Canadian Baltic community. Last week, however, coinciding with the summit progress on arms reduction, there were signs of a slight lowering of the political temperature in the Soviet Baltic region, where the republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are seeking to break away from Moscow.

Baker had made it clear on arrival that failure by the Kremlin to open a dialogue with the Baltics, and specifically the Lithuanians, who are splintering into separatist movements, would make them recede their March 11 declaration of independence, could adversely affect a broad range of Soviet-U.S. issues. Gorbachev, however, his earlier refusal to meet any of the republic's leaders, held exploratory talks last week with Lithuanian Prime Minister Kuznetsov Pranaskevicius. And some kind of compromise seemed to be possible. "We made a lot of progress," said Pranaskevicius, adding that Gorbachev himself had commented that they had taken "a big step forward."

Early in the week, however, the Kremlin's tough tactics on Baltic independence and its harder negotiating stance on arms control had combined to create an unsettling start for Baker's visit. On Wednesday, Baker said that it was "not encouraging to us to see an absence of dialogue" on Lithuania. Then, during Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's opening remarks across the negotiating table, he reportedly accused the Soviets of backing away from arms agreements reached in principle last February. When Baker emerged from that first-hour-hour session, he said soberly that there had been "but a lot of change in the Soviet position. On the Soviet side, foreign ministers' statements Graudinskiy Gromov and that there would have to be some "radical shifts" if the two delegations were to conclude an agreement by the Washington summit.

By Friday, however, the atmosphere had apparently improved and, by Saturday, the two sides were talking hopefully of a deal. The issue concerned two classes of nuclear weapons: sea- and air-launched cruise missiles, known by the respective strongholds as SS-N-3 (Stalder) and SS-N-20 (Stalder). The Soviets, clearly concerned about the U.S. technological edge in weapons systems, were demanding a legally binding and verifiable limit on the number of SS-N-20s. Washington's position was that, at the present time, a simple declaration of intent was sufficient, and that a binding limit would be

impossible to verify. At the first session in Moscow, however, U.S. negotiators appeared to have made a breakthrough, agreeing to a binding limit. Concerning Alaska, the difference was over the range of missiles to be covered by the agreement. The Soviets agreed for including missiles with a range of 375 miles and up. The Americans were holding out for a 400-mile limit. They gave no details on the Alaska formula, saying only that it "reportably meets the needs on both sides."

Previously, some observers had attributed the recent hardening of the Soviet arms-control position to an overreaction by Gorbachev by the Soviet military. With disarmament, the Soviet armed forces' role and prestige have been visibly declining. But Gorbachev is increasingly dependent on their support as his domestic economic and ethnic problems grow. And even Krombholz opines speculate that, to placate his military, Gorbachev has felt compelled to strike tougher attitudes on arms control.

The strict negotiations have been complicated by recent tensions in the Baltic. Last Monday, Gorbachev promised well and good the declared secession of Latvia and Estonia in fellow Lithuanians' lead and seek full independence. Fully mobilized by Gorbachev's statements, members of Latvia's and Estonia's ethnic Russian minorities besieged the parliaments of both republics. In Tallinn, Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar broadcast an emergency appeal for his countrymen to converge on the parliament and drive off the Russians. And in Riga, Latvian mob police forced back off-duty Soviet army officers and other units who tried to push their way into the parliament.

Faced with the clear danger that the Baltic situation might get out of hand, prompting a Soviet military intervention, the Lithuanian government made a conciliatory gesture. While insisting that its declaration of independence remained non-separable, the republic's government offered on Wednesday to suspend laws, including the repeal of the Soviet military draft, that its parliament has enacted since March 11. On Thursday, Gorbachev responded by agreeing to meet with Pranaskevicius. Afterward, while reporting some progress, Pranaskevicius said that Gorbachev had threatened even higher sanctions if the republic did not rescind its declaration. At week's end, the Lithuanian parliament was meeting to discuss what concessions it could offer to try to draw Soviet leaders into independence negotiations.

The Baltics are also likely to be a prime

## World Notes

## PHILIPPINE VIOLENCE

As American and Philippine negotiators prepared to open talks on the future of U.S. military bases in the Pacific islands, news of a new round of violence in that area led two U.S. armies of minds. Clark Air Base, 40 km north of Manila. Eight other Americans have been killed during the past 24 years in the campaign to force removal of the bases, which the communist New People's Army demands as a precondition of U.S. withdrawal. At the end of a week of talks, the two countries failed to reach agreement on the bases, but agreed to further negotiations.

## A TESTING CRISIS

Hispano President Vicente Fox Quesada averted a major crisis for her new administration by doubling the salaries of about 50,000 state workers, making a pay raise in mid-May. But a new court-ordered increase for military commander General Guevara threatened the administration's success of an accord to disarm by June 10. In a statement, Guevara declared that the 17,000 conscripts in Nicaragua would not disarm until Quesada guarantees the security of the 10,000 officers who have relinquished their weapons to the peacekeepers.

## A GUILTY VERDICT

In a case that has embroiled New York City in racial tensions since last August, a jury convicted Joseph Puma, 19, of second-degree murder in the death of 18-year-old black youth Yusuf Hawkins. Puma was part of a white mob that attacked Hawkins and three other blacks with baseball bats in the predominantly white Bronx district of Douglas Ave. Another jury acquitted alleged mob leader Keith Mosler, 37, of murder, but convicted him of starting a riot and illegally impounding Hawkins' car after other witnesses testified.

## MURDER EXECUTIONS

London-based Amnesty International said that it has received reports that hundreds of people were secretly executed in China after Soviet-style court proceedings provided summary protests last June. The secretions followed sharp criticism of China by President George Bush, who signed a proclamation making May 13 a national day of support for human rights.

## HONORING A SLAIN LEADER

Arkansians approved a holiday to honor slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. The new law joins only Montana, Idaho and New Hampshire without an official holiday honoring King.



President's concessions

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## WORLD

topic of discussion when Gorbachev meets Mubarak in Ottawa. The visit came in response to an open invitation by Mubarak during his trip to Moscow last November. Although the agenda had not been made final last week, the two leaders are also expected to discuss such global issues as German unification and the future of Iraq, as well as bilateral trade and investment. Leaders of the Baltic Republics in Canada, which represents about 180,000 Canadians of Estonian, Lithuanian and Latvian descent, said that they planned to hold protests on Parliament Hill on May 29 and 30.

If the Soviets can succeed in calming the Baltic waters, they may be rewarded by Washington. Bush has promised preferential status for the Soviets, which would allow them entry to the lucrative U.S. market at the lowest possible tariff rates. The stabilizing Soviet economy badly needs concessions of that kind, and Bush has made it clear that he is eager to help Gorbachev survive the open attacks of his critics at home. But Bush cannot deliver on his trade promise without congressional approval, and many congressmen have indicated that they would not approve a waiver of trade restrictions unless Gorbachev delivers his last against the Baltics.

Faced with such complex and pressing problems, Baker, taking a break from office business in Moscow, found time to see more of the country than just the wealth of government buildings. On his arrival Tuesday night, he took an informal walk through a sleeping district to see for himself the proverbial empty shelves at Soviet stores. On Thursday, he made a brief visit to a monastery and then to the village of Rudnitsk, about 60 km south of the capital. He had said that he wanted to see how Soviet villagers lived and, as Rudnitsk, he encountered a traditional Russian scene: a tiny hamlet of about 20 log-cabin-style houses with small garden plots, and dominating the village, an ornate, ornate Orthodox church.

As Baker strolled through the tiny main street, accompanied by Shcherbakov, a 70-year-old woman accosted them to complain that the church was out open for worship and that her husband's presence was not enough to live on. Pronounced by an official, the woman moved the two stateless to see the talpa in her garden. There, she told Baker, "I'd know you were coming. I'd have thought out the window," referring to the traditional Russian tea at Shcherbakov, man-of-war, promised that the woman's husband's presence would increase and that the church would be reopened. Arms together require a good deal more than a politician's silver-tongued promises. But, at week's end, the prospects for a START agreement were looking significantly brighter than they had for many months.

**JOHN BIERMAN with RENEE MARIE DOYLE in Moscow**



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**Karen Liberation Army forces on patrol: a long-running guerrilla war**

WORLD

MYANMAR

## A 'fascist Disneyland'

*A repressive regime will likely retain control*

Two years ago, Burma was in ferment, rattling the paces for later pro-democracy movements around the world with a wave of mass demonstrations that brought its oppressive government to the brink of collapse. The central focus of the unraveling had been government troops killed hundreds of students in March, 1988, protests against 28 years of dictatorial rule spread to the wider population. Then, in August and September, 1988, the regime cracked down definitively, killing an estimated 3,000 people when soldiers and police opened fire on demonstrators in Rangoon, the capital, and other major cities.

In the repression that followed, the government arrested thousands of people and tortured or summarily executed untold numbers of them. Thousands more fled to the jungle. That sinister upheaval is remembered in China in 1989, culminating in Beijing's Tiananmen Square massacre, drew the world's attention away from Burma. Now, despite the first

national elections in 36 years, scheduled for May 27, many citizens say that all that has really changed is the country's name: it is no longer Burma, but "Myanmar."

To many of the isolated country's 40 million people, the upcoming election of an assembly that will frame a new constitution appears to be based on the government's latest. Scores of opposition candidates and party workers are under arrest. Rangoon, renamed Yangon, and other major cities are under a 24 p.m.-to-4 a.m. curfew, the universities remain closed, and the country is sealed off to journalists and other outsiders as intent on observing the belated, still secret report by the Washington-based human rights organization Asia Watch. "Despite promises that these elections will be

'free and fair,' members of Myanmar's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council are taking no chances that any opposition candidate with genuine popular support will have a chance of winning. Most, in fact, will have no chance even of running."

The law and order council, led by the Burmese army chief of staff Gen. Saw Maung, 60, has many diplomats and human rights workers speculate that longtime leader Gen. Ne Win, 78, is still in charge, despite his formal retirement two years ago. S.L.O.R.C. has tried to defuse minority demands for greater representation, but that strategy has clearly failed: there has been no letup in the long-running guerrilla war waged by ethnic rebels along the country's borders with Thailand.

S.L.O.R.C.'s repressive measures have failed to subdue the cultural diversity of the country and its people. Amid Myanmar's shifting, ritual and architectural beauty, the mountains and dense forests, the thousands of pagodas and giant Buddha, a visitor can easily remain ignorant of seething discontent. In the cities, among the palm trees, astrologers, snake-oil salesmen and other purveyors of miracle cures, life

seems to proceed according to its own ancient, broad of normality. But the people are slowly afraid to talk to foreigners. Against such danger by the ubiquitous secret police is likely to be interrogated or arrested. Said one Western diplomat, who requested anonymity: "This place is a land of fascist Disneyland."

One highly visible sign of state's omnipresence are the hundreds of billboards erected in conspicuous public places, bearing slogans in five-lingos and "Only when there is discipline will there be progress," reads one 30-foot placed in front of the capital's Boudoka Park. "Crash all destructive elements," says another, at the entrance to the Schweikawade Pagoda, which residents' two sacred hairs supposed to be plucked from the head of the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, the Indian philosopher and founder of the Buddhist religion in the fifth century B.C.

In S.L.O.R.C.'s view, those "destructive elements" include 44-year-old Aung San Suu Kyi, the so-called daughter of the nation who led Burma to independence from the British in 1947. Although she is general secretary of the lawful men opposition party, the National League for Democracy, she is discredited from campaigning for election because of alleged links to underground organizations, and she has been under house arrest since last July. S.L.O.R.C. has put up one of its billboards just in front of her home in the capital. "Anyone who becomes traitor, destructive or unwise in our country."

Also under house arrest and forbidden to stand for election is U Nu, 83, Burma's last democratically elected prime minister, who held that post from 1946 to 1962. The 69-year-old chairman of the National League for Democracy, is serving three years of hard labor for alleged sedition. And, according to Aung Mye, scores of lesser-known opposition candidates and party workers have been arrested in the past two months.

Myanmar's severe restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly make campaigning all but impossible. Martial law regulations ban gatherings of more than 50 people in the street and of more than 30 people indoors. Also strict are curfewing, curfewing in procession, the closed-circuit television, and the press. It is said that, according to the government, "impose the country's independence, sovereignty and integrity" or "designate as superior the dignity" of state are also outlawed. Said a Western diplomat in Yangon: "There's not a chance in hell that the elections will change anything."

In clandestine conversations, numerous Burmese claim that, if there were a free vote, Suu Kyi would be the people's overwhelming choice. Her policies are not strictly clear. But her apparent generosity and her love for people have helped to give her some kind of resonance that Corbin Aquino's had in the Philippines before she came to power in 1986. "She is like a goddess," said one prominent resident of Yangon. "Her name is magic."

Web-Online editor Suu Kyi and the other

major opposition candidates disqualified, and others running under crippling handicaps, the election is so close as not to doubt. State will win. Officially, there are 83 parties involved, fielding a total of 2,333 candidates and contesting 485 seats. The government's National Unity Party is contesting all 488 seats. Suu Kyi's National League is running 430 candidates, and U Nu's League for Democracy and Peace is fielding 375. But S.L.O.R.C. has refused its slow entry to international observers who sought to monitor the voting. And on May 26, it barred not only foreign reporters but all tourists for the election period.

In the wake of the 1988 government crackdown, thousands of students and dissidents

fled to the jungle, he said, believing that the United States would send weapons to help him and his fellow students fight "the democracy." Asked what he meant by democracy, he replied, "We don't know exactly what it is, but we are learning."

In recent months, a Burmese army offensive has driven thousands of Karen rebels and their modest posts across the border into Thailand, where they are in close danger of being arrested and sent back by the Thai army. The Thais are apparently unwilling to grant refuge to the Burmese because they already have a major refugee problem on their eastern border with Cambodia, and because they do not want to popularize trade relations with Myanmar.



**Rebel recruits in combat training at the Thai-Burmese border: grim conditions**

civil servants fled from the cities to the Thai border regions, where they joined forces with the Karen and other rebel leaders who are fighting for regional autonomy. Before the foreign media ban was imposed, a *Mailweek*'s correspondent found grim conditions among students camped with Karen National Liberation Army forces along the border. The youths were sleeping in ramshackle barracks without mosquito netting and almost all appeared to be suffering from malaria. Food, medicine and weapons were in short supply. The camp residents passed their days in stalling for boredom. At the Swetlin Camp, on the Salween River, teenagers in ragged, worn khaki clothes were undergoing weapons training, using bamboo sticks for guns. So-called political education classes seemed to involve little more than the shouting of slogans.

Most of those interviewed said that they had fled to the border because they had been part of a non-governmental demonstration and feared for their lives. A thirty-year-old English student named Aung Nang-On, from Yangon University, the most of his comrades said that his parents did not know when he was "I sent a message before I left that I was going under

Independent analysts claim that the outcasts have and organized ethnic rebels have a chance of achieving their objectives. And Washington is unwilling to provide support. Said Thomas Birch, a Myanmar desk officer at the state department: "We don't want to get involved in an internal Burmese dispute." Meanwhile, the Japanese and Thais are providing significant aid and investment to support the government.

As a result, the regime appears to be in no immediate danger—unless anger and frustration over the election arrangements lead one another were of popular revolt. If that happens, army officers would be sure to suppress it. They outlasted two years ago whether to Myanmar follow communism or to drive out the Nu Win and accept a measure of genuine democracy. The death or serious illness of the aged dictator might also lead to dramatic change. But, by all accounts, the powerful Nu Win continues to enjoy robust good health, and Burma, or Myanmar, remains a colorful but claustrophobic police state.

**JAMES BERNARD with ALAN BRIDLOW in Yangon**



# LABOR'S BIG PUSH

The signs of rising anger and militancy among the 2,600 delegates who gathered in Montreal for the Canadian Labor Congress's annual convention last week were clear. Frustrated by unmet wage increases that have failed to keep pace with the inflation rate since the 1980-1982 recession, many rank-and-file members lashed out not only at their traditional foes—the employers and the federal government—but also against the leaders of the C.L.C. itself. Delegates who called C.L.C. president Shirley Carr an "intellectual assassin" of Ottawa's economic policies mounted a surprisingly strong challenge to her successful bid for a third term in office, with 30 per cent of the delegates voting outright for radical laborite-faction Canadian Union of Public Employees (C.U.P.E.) representative David Wolfe. And despite concerns expressed by Finance Minister Michael Wilson and Bank of Canada governor John Crow about possibly inflationary wage increases, union leaders vowed to press ahead with demands for substantial raises. See Smith.



Wolfe: "I say to hell with you, John Crow!"

Ottawa, a Vancouver delegate from the United Steelworkers of America. "The troops are saying something has to happen, because [the Tories] aren't listening, and we are getting screwed."

Some of that rising labor militancy has already been felt at the bargaining table—and

## THE RISING MILITANCY OF CANADA'S UNIONS IS ALREADY BEING FELT AT THE BARGAINING TABLE

Recent. Last week, 17,500 Ontario plumbers and sheet-metal workers sent a powerful message to government, as well as to their employers, when they went on strike. The plumbers were demanding a 10-per-cent wage increase, double the current national inflation rate of five per cent. The workers' claims were partially fuelled by the inflationary effect that they say the proposed Federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) will have on prices. The rise of the cost-of-living settlement of that contract, and of 19 others that expire across Canada over the next seven months, will thus inevitably place strong upward pressure on the inflation level, and on interest rates in 1991—and they could torpedo the federal government's entire economic strategy.

Several of the unions negotiating those contracts have already tabled demands for stiff wage increases. Earlier this month, the Canadian Paperworkers Union announced that it would be targeting U.S.-owned St. Joe Consolidated Ltd. in Montreal as its demands for an eight-per-cent wage increase as well as the next two years in addition to cost-of-living increases. For its part, C.U.P.E.'s largest union—as also seeking a pay hike of as much as nine per cent for its 277,000 government-employee members across Canada, in Alberta, 1,800 provincial government social workers, who are demanding a wage hike to give them parity with psychologists and other provincial health care workers, have



Alberta Public Employees Union on the picket line: a taste for confrontation

been on strike since May 1. And in July, the powerful United Steelworkers of America will begin a critical round of negotiations with Birmingham-based Stelco Steel, the principal industry of Sorel, Que. While the Steelworkers have not yet tabled their demands, in March the union won a 9.7-per-cent wage increase as each of the next three years for its 1,350 members at the Iron Ore Co. of Canada in Labrador City, N.S. Overall, wage increases for the contracts that have already been settled in the first quarter of this year have averaged 6.2 per cent, compared with a 4.4 per cent for the same period in 1989.

If unions continue to see increases in excess of inflation, it will threaten two of Ottawa's major economic objectives—disinflation, and high, high interest rates and smoothly functioning the seven-per-cent cut last Jan. 1

For their part, Wilson and Crow say that they can keep general price increases in check if they can prevent the economy from overheating. But, last week, Canada Auto Workers president Robert White declared, "I say to hell with you, John Crow."

Still, Crow insists the only opponent of higher wage settlements. Private employers who say that they must keep their labor costs level with those of their U.S. competitors are also dipping in to test increases. Indeed, Thomas Korman, president of the Toronto-based C.D. Howe

consulting firm, says that he and other union leaders complain that it is unfair for Ottawa to raise its rates in these demands while it is pursuing policies that are increasing the cost of living. Said White, "Workers are going to get hit hard by the oil and high interest rates."

But even though they did not show fully into economic boom since the recession, workers have also been reluctant to raise to union to help them to bigger raises over the same period. From 1983 until 1988, union

## Business Notes

### INFLATION DEAD?

The inflation rate in April dropped to 5.0 per cent, its lowest level in 11 months. The drop, from 5.5 per cent in March, led federal opposition politicians to urge Bank of Canada governor John Crow to ease his high interest rate policy, which has slowed the growth rate to 2.1-2.3 per cent, its highest level in eight years.

### CANADA BONDS BOOSTED

Interest rates on Canada Savings Bonds will be raised to 11.5 per cent from 10.5 per cent, for a five-month period beginning on June 1. Finance Minister Michael Wilson said that the action is aimed at keeping them competitive with other long-term investments.

### UNITIL DOES THE DISTANCE

United Communications Inc. of Toronto, formerly CUC Telecommunications, says that it can offer Canadiana telephone long-distance service that is 15 per cent cheaper than current rates. The offer, which was rejected earlier last week by CRTC because it questioned CUC's business plan, will hold public hearings before ruling on the bid.

### OTC TIES CABLE FIRMS

The CRTC announced new regulations that will restrict Canada cable television company profits. The new measures, which are intended to make companies can pass on to the consumer to two percentage points less than the inflation rate, will result in holding down increases in monthly payments charged to cable TV viewers. The CRTC also said that the companies will not be allowed to pass on other costs such as the royalties paid to air U.S. programming.

### SPENDING \$1 BILLION

Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd. of Oakville, Ont., said that it will spend an estimated \$1 billion over the next three years to help improve its Ontario assembly plant for its in-plant-managed new vehicle line. The company said that the investment, the largest in Ford Canada's 86-year history, will help promote employment security for the assembly plant's 2,700 workers.

### EXPORT SURPLUS

Despite its strong dollar, Canada's March recorded the highest monthly trade surplus in nearly a year. The \$471-million surplus, compared with February's \$53-million surplus, is largely due to an increase in automotive exports to the United States.

## fighting Conservative economic policies.

Now, however, men with Carr at the helm, unions appear poised to return to the heavy construction that won them double-digit increases during the 1970s. The 17,000 Ontario plumbers and sheet-metal workers who walked off the job last week were not alone; they joined 15,000 electricians who went on strike a week earlier. The strikers could cost contractors, who declined to reveal their wage offer, millions of dollars, as huge projects, such as reconstruction of a third terminal at Toronto's congested Pearson International Airport, fall behind schedule. Still, the tradesmen have seemed to stay out and their demands are more jolly. Doyle, executive director of the Ontario Pipe Trades Council, says that general inflation and the looming cut have made union members more militant than they were in the last period of heightened two years ago, when construction strikes delayed completion of Toronto's SkyDome. Said Doyle: "The fact that we are on strike again shows we are tougher."

Similar toughness is expected to mark coming negotiations in three major industrial sectors—brewing, steel and auto manufacturing. Indeed, the forestry sector's most powerful union is preparing for a classic struggle with Stove Consolidated Inc., the giant Montreal-based pulp-and-paper firm. On the management side, the union has already won interest. Roger Stove, the Chicago entrepreneur who bought the former Consolidated-Bathurst firm for \$2.6 billion last year. Paperworkers union president Don Holder says that the company was chosen because rival pulp-and-paper giant, Abitibi-Price Inc. was targeted in each of the last three negotiating years.

Many economists agree that the paperworkers' demand for cost-of-living increases, when added to eight-percent annual wage increases over two years, could result in total annual increases of 34 percent. But to back its demands, Holder says, the union has a formidable strike fund of \$11 million at its disposal for Stove workers. Said Holder: "It is going to be a tough summer."

Another construction battle for higher wages will open in July, when union representatives threaten 16,000 ironworkers at Hamilton-based Stelco Steel as they sit at the negotiating table. The potential for a strike is high. Because long-running and open against a backdrop of shrinking international steel markets and falling prices against the free-ground of the Iron Ore Co. of Sweden, Stelco Steel's parent, Stelco Inc., laid off a loss of \$13.2 million in the last three months of 1990 compared with a \$33.7-million profit during the same period in 1989. As well, the company announced last month that it had reduced its payroll by 706 over the previous year through attrition.

Refrigerated Stelco executives say



Carr: "something has to happen"

that they cannot afford the 9.2-percent, plus cost-of-living, agreement that the Steelworkers won from Iron Ore Co. Frederick Tillson, Stelco Steel's president, who will become chairman of parent Stelco Inc. next January, says that cutback international steel prices and the 44.58-cent (U.S.) Canadian dollar, which has made Canadian exports more expensive, have combined to put immense pressure on the company. Because it must compete in a continental free market under the

Magna of Canada Ltd., Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd. and at Chrysler Canada Ltd. The car's current three-year contract expires on Sept. 14 and, by tradition, the union will again initiate one of the three domestic automakers for a major precedent-setting contract. The union will be seeking to offset the cut while gaining more job security. Wayne Strong, chief director of labor relations, says that management will propose lumping pay increases at or below the level of inflation when the two sides meet on July 24. The company's 44,800 workers are currently paid an average of \$29 per hour, including benefits, but Strong says that Japanese and other overseas competitors, as well as increasingly foreign-owned plants in Canada, operate with lower labor costs.

Despite the growing Japanese competition, Tillson says, the car's plant continues at one's sprawling Oshawa, Ont., complex, says that workers are not going to make any concessions this time around. As well, Tillson said, after three years of healthy profits at the Big Three domestic automakers, the car's 65,330 members in Big Three plants deserve a fair return.

Says Strong: "We're not afraid." When asked to be represented by Wilson and Crane, private-sector union leaders can point with some satisfaction to their counterparts at the public sector, who have been granted increases well in excess of the current five-percent inflation rate. Last month, Ontario Hydro's 17,000 workers—represented by CUPE—won a pay hike of 6.9 per cent in the first year and 6.7 per cent in the second year of their new contract. Last autumn, 2,300 federal employees in Ottawa, represented by the Public Service Alliance of Canada, received a settlement that will give them a 3.25-percent pay hike annually for each of the next four years.

Ignoring calls for restraint, CUPE's president Jeff Ross said that his union's demand for at least an eight-percent wage increase to compensate for inflation, as well as for the accumulated impact of the GDT, is a justified. Said Ross: "We have nothing to apologize for. We have a right to live."

Stelco Steel, an economic war with the union. Goya, a Toronto-based private economic-forecasting agency, says that, in addition to rising wage demands, the demand for labor itself is still strong, putting added upward pressure on wages. Stelco says that Coak's strategy is to cool the economy and thereby to ease the unemployment rate, which in turn causes labor pressure. But that scenario, says Goya, is not realistic. It is for combination may be as rare-and-the unemployment became fearful of joining the unemployment lines.

JOHN DALE with MICHAEL MARRISON and BARBARA WICKS at Times and independently reports.

## Another myth shattered: "Like father, like son"

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- Call the 24-hour Hair Loss Information Line toll free at 1-800-397-3450 Ext. 22. In addition to receiving information about hair loss, you will have the opportunity to speak confidentially with a doctor.
- Complete and mail this request form to receive a Hair Loss Information package.

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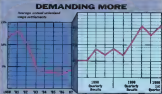
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Free Trade Agreement, Tillson says, Stelco Steel cannot automatically raise prices to pass on higher labor costs. Added Tillson: "We don't have any place to go."

International competitors will also weigh heavily in labor negotiations at General



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René's *Au Moulin de la Calotte*: 'baying with incredible ignorance'

## A Japanese coup

A record-shattering week for rare masterpieces

Unable to contain their excitement, many of the 3,000 onlookers shouted and left their seats when the winner was declared. The setting was not a sporting arena, but the elegant Park Avenue showroom of Christie's auction house in New York City. The voice was a subtly dressed Tokyo art dealer, Hajime Kotagawa, who last week bought Vincent van Gogh's haunting *Portrait of Dr. Gachet* for a record \$95.7 million on behalf of Ryosei Saito, a 74-year-old pulp-and-paper magnate. It took less than half an hour for Kotagawa, who led by crying tapping the gold rills of his fountain pen toward the auctioneer, to hammer the 2007 record of \$71.5 million set by van Gogh's *Irises*. Two nights later, at Sotheby's New York auction house just a few blocks away, Saito, through a telephone bidder, almost topped his own record when he outbid a single challenger for another 19th-century Impressionist masterpiece, Pierre-Auguste Renoir's *Le Moulin de la Galette* for \$106 million. But until last week's purchases, many dealers cautioned that, while the prices of rare masterpieces will likely continue to soar, prices of lesser paintings are softening. Said New York art dealer Allan Stone: "It's an incredibly distorted situation."

Despite the records, there were close up bids at the auctions that some arguments of the art market are weakening. At the Christie's



Japen: stable prices for some Canadian paintings

action, paintings by 20th-century masters Piet Mondrian and Helen Mirren, and one by Impressionist Edward Munch, were among several that sold well below pre-auction estimates. Moreover, 22 of the 31 works offered failed to sell.

At the Sotheby's auction, even though the Renoir fetched almost double the pre-sale estimate of \$46.4 million to \$56 million and eight other selected artists' records were set, total receipts for the 76 paintings offered were \$331.8 million, only \$2.5 million above the amount expected prior to the sale. The previous week, Sotheby's sales plunged as the New York Stock Exchange by 10 per cent the day after an auction at which it withdrew several paintings and others, because prices well below their estimates.

Dealers say that the downturn is partially the result of a general economic downturn. As well, New York dealer Ivan Karp says that Japanese collectors who once fueled the explosion in prices by "baying with incredible ignorance and incredible amounts of money" are now becoming more discerning in their purchases.

But, while they are buying less, the Japanese still seem willing to pay any price to obtain what they want. Following his triumph last week, Saito said in an interview on Japanese television that he had authorized his representatives to bid up to \$115 million each for *Dr. Gachet* and *Au Moulin de la Galette*. Declared Saito: "Once you have something, go all the way." Saito added that he has borrowed the money for the two paintings and that he plans to display them publicly in a gallery in the city of Shinjuku in central Japan.

Saito's resolve reflects the general attitude of the Japanese buyers who have led the art boom over the past decade. As recently as 1987, the highest price ever paid for a picture of a woman was \$3.3 million, for Monet's *Blue Room with Street View*, a record that had held since 1853. But, in 1987, Tokyo's Yumoto Fine Art and Marine Insurance Co. more than doubled that record by paying \$52.9 million for one of van Gogh's *Sunflowers*. Since then, as of

the 10 highest auction prices in history have been paid by Japanese buyers.

These previously unimagined prices have led New York and London dealers to claim that the Japanese, and the speculative investors whom they have drawn into the art market, have been buying recklessly with money for artistic merit. Karp says that, as a result, "Japan has become a shopping ground for all the bad Monets and Renoirs and all the bad Postimpressionists." Indeed, he said that the Japanese have driven up the prices of faddish modernist works by artists such as Andy Warhol and David Hockney to "grotesque levels." Still, Karp added that he was encouraged by last week's outcome, where his important works faced a cool reception. Said Karp: "Maybe they've been reading some of the press about their ignorance."

Other spread pressures on auction prices are also reducing. In January, Sotheby's announced that it would no longer allow buyers to use the paintings they purchase as collateral for loans from the auction house. Art dealers criticized Sotheby's for helping to inflate prices by leading Australian investor Alan Bond, now in financial difficulty, bid the purchase price for *Irises*.

Even if prices continue to moderate, the specter of a rate over the past decade has driven all but the wealthiest museums and individuals out of the auction market. The National Gallery in Ottawa, for one, has an annual acquisitions budget of \$3 million. Says Hayden



Portrait of Dr. Gachet: haunting

Smith, the gallery's assistant director of collections and research: "We're all spectators in the stands," except for the richly endowed. J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, Calif. As a result, museums are now more than ever dependent on the generosity of collectors.

Canadian museums and galleries have an advantage over American institutions because of the more generous treatment of art donations under Canadian tax laws. Ottawa allows donors of certified cultural property to deduct

the full appraised market value of any artworks from their net income. In the United States, private donors are only permitted to deduct what they originally paid for an artwork.

As well, in Canada, the art market has been largely immune to the frenzy that has swept through international markets in recent years. Geoffrey Jones, president of gallery Fine Art Inc., a Toronto-based auction house, and that while some Canadian paintings will sell at prices that are unchanged from five years ago, most have appreciated steadily. As well, works by some artists with international reputations, such as Group of Seven members and Quebec-born, Paris-based abstract painter Jean-Paul Ringuet, 66, have soared dramatically in value. Last week, at one of its biennial auctions in Toronto, Joyner sold a 1963 Ringuet abstract, *Composition*, for \$418,000 to an anonymous buyer. As well, Toronto dealer Emerald Raup, 53, purchased Group of Seven member Frederick Varley's *Drifts over Loon* for \$483,000, more than double the pre-sale estimate of \$150,000 to \$175,000.

Dealers and auctioneers claim that they prefer the stability of a market dominated by art lovers rather than a small number of wealthy speculators. But others, like Dr. Gachet, Saito said that he was "extremely pleased by the purchase." Whether they are art lovers or speculators, wealthy buyers have clearly left their mark on the art world.

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**BUSINESS**

# A failed reaction

*Canada may have sold its last CANDU reactor*

**F**rom the moment the process of nuclear fission began at Canada's first experimental nuclear research reactor at Chalk River, Ont., in 1945, the Canadian nuclear industry has been striving to catch up with its foreign competitors. Canada has spent billions of dollars to promote its commercial reactor, the concept, which has sold poorly abroad despite a reputation for safety and efficiency that is among the best in the world. Now, Canada's biggest export sale—five still uncompleted reactors bought by Romania between 1978 and 1981—may turn out to be its last. Western experts say that the reactors are being shoddily built by unskilled labour. They add that working conditions at the Cernavoda nuclear site on the Danube River are unsound, and include unhealth-



Uncompleted CANDU reactors at Cernavoda: unsound conditions

ful cardboard buildings with open windows. But last week, in an attempt to salvage the project, Romanian issued an urgent plea for more Canadian help. To complete the reactors, Romania

said that it will need a \$300-million loan and at least 60 more Canadian technical experts, in addition to the 18 already at the site.

Energy Minister John Ego told *Maclean's* that the federal government is still considering the loan request. While Ego acknowledged that he is a "strong supporter" of nuclear energy—he has Manitoba's first Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) in his constituency—he added that the

question of the working conditions at Cernavoda puts the government in an awkward position if it continues to support the project. Ego said that changes in management and the manner in which the project is conducted are needed. But he says that the outcome of Romania's first free elections—no to be held on May 26—since the overthrow and execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December will not affect whether the loan is granted. Meanwhile, the project remains stalled. Last November, Canadian safety supervisors from Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL), which designs, sells and oversees the construction of the reactors, halted construction. The team found that almost 30 per cent of the welding was substandard and

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**Canadian**

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## BUSINESS

had to be redone. But completion of even one reactor at Cernavodă, 150 km east of the capital of Bucharest, remains critical for the Romanians. Says Keith MacParlane, commercial councillor at the Canadian Embassy: "With the investment they have in it and the money they're wanting to import energy, it's a high priority for them."

When the Romanians deal was announced in the late 1970s, Ottawa hailed it as proof that Canada's nuclear industry, with the atom alone employing roughly 5,400 scientists, engineers and technicians, could compete with the largest exporters of reactors in the world, including the United States, Britain and France. Indeed, Stanley Hatcher, who was then vice-president of the Winnipeg Nuclear Research Institute and is now acting president of the AECL, predicted in 1977 that Canada's exports of reactors will only be limited by our ability to make them fast enough. But after more than 42 years of development, and \$12 billion to support the CANDU program, Canada has sold only 10 reactors abroad. In addition to the Romanian sale, one each has been purchased by Argentina, Pakistan and South Korea, and two by India.

Although AECL is still normally pursuing international buyers—it maintains marketing offices in six countries—the outlook for future sales is poor. Hatcher says that AECL is currently negotiating with South Korea for the export of another reactor, to be built at its Wolsong site near Seoul. But he also acknowledges that other negotiations with developing countries, such as discussions with Turkey in the early 1980s, have not been fruitful.

At home, Ripp has already engineered reduced government support for Canada's domestic nuclear industry. Only last month, he announced that there will be no further increases on the budget of AECL. In contrast, in the domestic federal government funding reductions that AECL has endured—AECL's total funding from public and private sources has remained frozen at 1985 levels—Ripp predicted that it will now increase more than \$200 million annually for the next seven years, although it will not be released for delivery.

At the same time, Ripp also said that "the priority for our nuclear program will be to serve domestic needs." New projects that AECL is working on include a smaller version of the CANDU called the CANDU 3, which costs

about \$1 billion, compared with about \$2.2 billion for a full-sized reactor, and can serve a population of about 300,000. Another even smaller reactor, the Stewiack, costing about \$30 million, will be evaluated to generate areas or very small centres. The largest market for the CANDU remains Ontario Hydro, which plans to add 10 more CANDUs, at a projected cost of \$30 billion, at three sites over 25 years. The project is subject to approval by Ontario's environmental assessment board.

Amir Shalaby, an Ontario Hydro system planner, says that nuclear power, because it is relatively cheap and safe, is more than ever the wave of the future. Added Hatcher, "More people are becoming adverse to generating energy and increasing emissions of carbon dioxide from plants that use fossil fuels."

Still, critics like Norman Rabin, director of nuclear research at the Toronto-based Energy Probe, say that additional support for chronically troubled projects such as Cernavodă is a waste of money for Canada. Added Rabin: "Considering the complexity of the CANDU system and the fact that what has already been built is full of flaws, there is little chance that Romania's reactors will ever work safely." For the Canadian nuclear industry, Romania may prove to be the final chapter in its more than 40-year attempt to build an international following.

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Cannapene: unskilled

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# A troublesome revolution in banking

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

There's a new phrase making the rounds of Bay Street boardrooms these days that lightens even the most sophisticated cynicism. The reference is to "universal banking," that ultimate expression of any deregulated financial system: the allows the chartered banks, through corporate mergers and various holding companies, to be involved in and control virtually every sector of the economy.

Universal banking as a concept is currently practiced in Germany and Switzerland, where a handful of dominant banks exercise monolithic power. This means that no entrepreneur can launch or expand a business unless he can win the approval of one of these monopolistic giants. "They operate under no restrictions in a system that has no pillars," I was told by Thom Thomson, president of investment dealer Nesbitt Thomson (Dow Jones) Inc. of Toronto, who is entrusted with the same. The bank, Nesbitt Thomson and Switzerland, there was once a vibrant brokerage industry. With the rise of universal banking, the banks are the only significant members of the financial industry to have survived. The individual members of the investment houses died off because the traditional clients they rely on are the products of consolidation because their competitors. Over a period of time, that attitude could well evolve in Canada.

What Thom and other thoughtful members of the investment industry fear is that concentration in Canada's financial sector—as narrow as it already is—has just begun. "Not too many years ago," he says, "we had 10 major and a hundred medium investment dealers as well as a large group of trust companies. Now, we have Royal Trust, Canada Trust, Montreal Trust and, without meaning to denigrate any of the smaller firms, they just don't count anymore. In terms of investment dealers, there is no more Bedford, no more Harris—even as large as Imperial or Merrill Lynch is back where they were before they purchased Royal Securities in 1989."

Stock predicts that some significant Bay Street brokerage firms will not survive the

*The dancing, so far, has been more slow than dirty after the banks took over Canada's major brokerage firms*

current bear market and that eventually there will be only four or five—all owned by banks—plus a few tiny and highly specialized boutiques. "I don't think we've really seen the beginning of real consolidation in the financial sector," he believes. "On the equity side of the business, as recently as five years ago we traded with a whole group of clients, providing research and portfolio management expertise. Now, a good part of the business is in industry trading, which means we're buying on our own account—in effect becoming our own clients—and that's exactly what's been happening in Germany and Switzerland."

Like most of his colleagues in the industry, Thom is already working for a bank. Nesbitt Thomson was taken over by the Bank of Montreal just 19 days before the 1987 market crash, for \$256 million, one of the highest asset prices paid by any of the banks for a brokerage house. The cash for 75 per cent of Nesbitt's stock it had gone public the previous year) went to its then shareholders, most of whom were Nesbitt employees. At least 50 million-dollar loans were then created overnight, and it says something about the firm's morale that not a single one of those senior staff members has cashed in his stock and left since the buyout.

Nesbitt has traditionally ranked as Bay Street's second most profitable investment house, just behind Dominion Securities, even though its operating profit was only \$12 million on last year's \$190 million in capital. The company is now run by a separate board with three Bank of Montreal and one Nesbitt representatives—with the former voting their majority stock position. Although he has enjoyed a good personal relationship with both former Bank of Montreal chairman William McEwen and his successor, Matthew Bennett, Thom is still not certain whether the marriage of the banking and investment cultures will work. "We won't really know for at least 10 years or so, because the first couple of years is all postmortem and dancing," he says.

So far, the dancing has been more slow than dirty. Nesbitt customers have been offered preferred rates to join the Bank's gold MasterCard credit card option, while Nesbitt has been getting referrals from bank branch managers as well as providing a discount brokerage service. Plans are being floated to provide joint cash management accounts that would allow Bank of Montreal or Nesbitt customers to write cheques in either name, but it's only in capital-market operations that any significant synergy has occurred.

Nesbitt recently absorbed the Montreal's capital and fixed-income market operations in London, where a considerable volume of Euro-bonds is traded. At the same time, Nesbitt's domestic money-market functions have been moved over to the Bank of Montreal. Nesbitt suffered from the takeover by having to give up its American brokerage activities, because neither American firms banks cannot trade on the stock market. The firm has small offices in Zurich, Munich and Frankfurt, but apart from London, its international business is marginal.

At home, Nesbitt has been experimenting with new investment instruments for retail clients, whose accounts make up 60 per cent of its revenue base. "We're spreading right at the margin these days in our retail business," Thom admits. "I predict there will soon be a complete redefinition of what this sector of the industry is all about, so that it becomes portfolio management in its true sense, with fee charges attached to commissions. That will resolve once and for all the long-standing conflict of interest between the retail broker who can earn more commissions by accelerating rates of trading and the ultimate benefits to the client. The new fee structure will be based on total assets under administration with incentives for superior performance."

That kind of development would police the investment industry into two streams: the discount brokers working through bank branches and the portfolio managers handling larger, more sophisticated accounts for the major firms also owned by the banks—work not much in between. Whether such a system, presumably run under the umbrella of universal banking, would allow enough exceptions to benefit the consumer is highly dubious.

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# SEX, SAND AND CELLULOID



**THE CANNES FILM FESTIVAL IS A 12-DAY CARNIVAL OF GLAMOR, ART AND COMMERCE**

**H**er silver hair peeked out the side at the edge of the Mediterranean. Wearing a striped cotton blouse and a black skirt, she struck a sultry pose for the horde of photographers surrounding her, who included flash-popped professionals, tourists with instant cameras and perambulators with telephoto lenses. Selma Martin was an unemployed 30-year-old from a village near Cannes. It was her first time in the public eye, and she was doing her best to look like a model in a magazine. She untied her broad leather belt and let it drop to the sand. She removed her blouse to reveal her breasts. Photographers shouted "Bueno," and flashes clicked furiously. Then, she wriggled out of her tight skirt, let drop the line at photographers' pleas that she take off her white bikini bottoms. A wave washed over her high heels, and, as she began to get dressed, the camera quickly

sought out fresh female subjects.

It was another day of disposable fame at the 33rd annual International Film Festival at Cannes, France, which ended early this week. Stripping for the cameras is a traditional indulgence at Cannes, the movie industry's 12-day orgy of glamor, commerce and art. It is the world's most important film festival. And while the sex and glamor are traditional elements, in recent years the festival crowd has become increasingly obsessed with work and money. When producers discuss "negative pickings" and "high back-end" deals at champagne-fueled parties on the beach, they are talking business, not pleasure. Still, the champagne trail leads from MacLiffe cruises to private yachts, from the casinos to the disco. And even remains an operative metaphor, even if there's a little time for the real thing. David Overby, a Pennsylvania-based programmer at Tascam's annual film festival, has been going to Cannes for 20 years. He calls it "the circus whorehouse of cinema—everything and everything is for sale."

**Exclusive:** The festival serves as a arena for a wide cross section of society, from the super-rich who park their monster parties in the bay to the giddy pickpockets who work the crowds along the Croisette, the town's beach-front promenade. Spotted there on a warm evening last week was a homeless man leaning to a pole, a beggar woman taking a small child as a prop. African selling wares, a newswalking name artist, a fast-talking gambler on a cellular phone, musicians, prostitutes, transvestites, a man with a swordfish beard wearing the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and an Andy Warhol impersonator wearing whiteface and a flight wig.

But, for all its distractions, Cannes is also a critical movie showcase. It attracts Europe's top directors and some of Hollywood's biggest stars. This year's winners included Clint Eastwood, Michael Douglas, Sylvester Stall-



Actress Mariel Hemingway, Eastwood (left) the beach at Cannes: the champagne trail from black tie to the disco

one, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Lauren Bacall, Anthony Quinn and Mick Jagger. Some of them came to promote their movies. Others came to be seen—usually by each other. The major stars stayed far from the Croisette's crowd; a half-hour drive down the coast at the exclusive Hotel du Cap-Est, a 19th-century chateau where a room with a view costs \$1,000 a night. Lunch for two at the Cap can easily exceed \$500.

**Fireworks:** The hotel's spectacular Eden Roo restaurant, perched on terraces overlooking the sea, served as the site for the festival's most extravagant party. Curious Pictures, an independent U.S. production company, spent an estimated \$1 million decorating just 300 guests. Stallone and Schwarzenegger put on a show, dancing arm in arm to live music by The Gipsy Kings. Jagger sat beside girlfriend Jerry Hall. The party climaxed with a massive fireworks display spelling out the titles of a dozen new movies, along with the names of their directors and stars.

Despite the displays of Hollywood glamor, Cannes mainly celebrates movies that are beyond Hollywood's grasp. The festival serves as the international market of independent cine-

ma. And this year, its official competition featured new movies by such old masters as Italy's Federico Fellini, France's Jean-Luc Godard and Japan's Akira Kurosawa. There was also a provocative slice of film from newly liberated Eastern Europe—including the provocatively banned *Intemperie*, a movie by Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Zanussi, now based in Toronto (page 47). For filmmakers working outside the

Hollywood mold, success at the festival can make or break careers, win, fill and subsidize, much for a modest \$1.5 million, because a single hit after winning here wins a grand prize at Cannes. And in past years, the festival has helped establish such Canadian film-makers as Denys Arcand, whose *Divine of the American Empire* (1986) and *Juno of Montreal* (1988) were both recipients of the festival.

But, for the first time in 12 years, not a single Canadian feature was selected for this year's official program, which included 38 features from 39 countries. Notably absent was *Believe: The Making of a Hero*, the troubled epic starring Donald Sutherland as Dr. Norman Bethune, the Canadian battlefront surgeon who died in the Chinese Revolution. Still, the Montreal-based producers of the film-sellout movie—the most expensive in Canadian history—traveled to Cannes and quickly secured a finished print of *Believe* for distributors at the festival's International Film Market (page 48). It's all about \$50 members of the Canadian movie industry showed up to buy and sell films.

A vast bazaar open to anyone with the money to rent a booth, the market attracts the best and the worst of the

Stallone (left), Schwarzenegger: dancing arm in arm







Actress Charlie (left) and Martin Sheen posing on the beach: I had a ball

**'A CIRCUS WHOREHOUSE OF CINEMA—  
EVERYBODY IS FOR SALE'**

world's independent production companies. They advertise their wares up and down the promenade with giant billboards. Some companies work out of hotel rooms. Others set up a stand in the basement of the Palais des Festivals, the headquarters of every-park concrete that is nicknamed the Bunker. In the bowels of the Bunker, there are those who sell low-budget movies by the pound. Others, neither the buyers nor the sellers bother to watch the products they are trading.

**Playboy:** the beach-front Carlton Hotel, there are producers selling movies with such titles as *Frankenhooker*, *Manic Woman* and *A Nightly Delirium* in *Disco*! Will this profit for *Frankenhooker*, a comic horror movie produced by the New York City-based TriStar Inc., include a quotation allegedly from comedian Bill Murray? "If you can say only one movie this year, it should be *Frankenhooker*." When a water dropped by TriStar's office in the Carlton Hotel, marketing director Steve Gadd passed on his like like a sugary messiah, "We're going to make it, the best, when I asked about the products at the beach, they asked 'All kinds of people are out there selling t-shirts. But what are you looking at, aren't just titles. We're actually selling movies'."

Between the basement of the Bunker and its red-carpeted outdoor staircase that leads the black-tie crowd into the festival's 3,000-seat

Outside of baseball, there is an extensive class literature based on money, image and power. "I was a very young man when I was sent to the Caracas 10 years ago on a soccer project," he had a major at the bottom. "At the age of 24," he recalled, "I didn't have a clue what goes on there, but to get a local room or a party invitation." "Luisa found a hotel for her mother from the Crumet. He knew almost no one at the hotel. But he had a meeting place to sell. The Best of the New York Sports (New York). He found that there was a killing to be made at Caracas in soft-core pornography. Meanwhile, he crashed the parties. He met women on the beach. And over the years, he carved out an unparalleled reputation as the playboy prince of the Caracas entertainment industry." Said Lando: "I had a ball."

**Remains:** New, London is chairman of Toronto-based Alliance Entertainment Corp., Canada's largest film and TV production company. And last week, he occupied a lavish corner suite on the top floor of the Carlton. Near the hotel entrance was a billboard promoting *Devs/And Devs*, a Canadian movie that Alliance's distribution arm is marketing internationally. A sweet but useless tale of American poet Walt Whitman's visit to London, Ont., *Devs/And Devs* had at the Canadian box office. Its mock-up newspaper ads promoted it as a movie about romance and poetry. In Canada,

the Alliance poster for the same movie showed a man and a woman leaning against a tree, his knee in the folds of her skirt. The caption: "Women of sex and lust... he understood her secret." ■

But Alliance is also showing signs of class. This year London plans to host a \$13-million screen version of *The Merchant of Venice*, based on the novel by William Shakespeare. The film is being produced by the British film company, British Screen. The film is being produced by the British film company, British Screen. The film is being produced by the British film company, British Screen.

**Giamer:** Lantos sat with Mark Duman, the Los Angeles-based producer of the erotic hit *9½ Weeks* (1986) and the current *Wild Orchid*. They discussed favorite actresses Britain's Greta Scacchi "has one of the world's great bodies," declared Duman. Lantos said that he was hoping to hire French star Isabelle Adjani for a movie based on *Delta of Venus*, the erotic writings of Anaïs Nin.

Later, the two producers swapped stories of real on-camera love-making. Damon reveals how Mickey Rourke and co-star Cary Elwes decided to go all the way in *Wild Orchid*, which is obvious only in the R-rated version. Lantos told of hard-core sex between Carolee Lange and Lewis Fuzzy on the set of *L'Amore a la Mode* (1977).

The Cannes of 1999 is a tamer, gentler place: its film market used to be a haven for pornography. In the mid-1970s, more than half the films shown outside the official program were exploitation movies. But during the



Director: **Russell Polansky** and wife **Karennae Seigner**; actress **Brooklyn Shields** and dance partner: **Joshua**

1990s, tougher regulations filtered out the hard-core features. Meanwhile, the displays of sex and glamor on the Croisette have become more discreet. Says Laros: "It used to be a lot wilder."

**Celebs:** The Canadian vetters, Toronto-based producers Bill Marshall, says that he is a renegade for the old days. "Now, it seems everybody's going home early at 1 and 2 in the morning," he said, wincing through his own pain in the crash of a champagne-and-club-soda party hosted by the funding agency Telefilm Canada. "There was no such thing as a breakfast meeting," Marshall added. "Back then, you were lucky to get lunch." As for the celeb vetters, they were not always confined to the beach. Rip Williams, an American who became a cult favorite for photographers, used to pose naked in restaurants and hotel lobbies. And there were other rebellious Marshall. "We'd be sitting out on the Carlton terrace, and this party would come along wearing nude to nothing and not a word written on the top."

Stranding next to Marshall at the Teletubbies party was a colleague wearing a baby-blue t-shirt and matching madras jacket. "We were at the Carlton the other day," he said, "and this girl came out with a short riding whip up her behind—obviously a hooker. Well, they kicked her out. Can you believe it? They actually kicked her out!"

**Skill:** The carnival tries to live up to its image of hedonism. Rich men coast strolling women absorbed in glittering music. With top designers favoring baroque-style costumes, it can be hard to distinguish between the gilded and the hired escorts. Streetwalkers strike bold, sculptured poses on corners and in doorways. *Not*

some of the most glamorous prostitutes turn out to be men. Triofilm Canada's customary guide to Cannes warns festival-goers that they may discover "the beautiful creature they have been eyeing is actually a transvestite."

Meanwhile, the graduates have trouble competing with the festival's own deejays, which last late into the night. One evening last week began with a distributor's champagne reception on rock star David Byrne's private yacht—without Byrne. Then, it was time to move to a bigger venue. Clutching their invitations to a party called "Net to Thursday,"

Actresses Saranga Rana (left), Isabelle Rossigny (right)



crowds shoved their way through a pile onto a shuttle boat headed for a big, dirty Russian ship anchored half a mile offshore. A banner for the Soviet state, *Pravda*, flew, adorned the hull. The vessel was a ship of fools, jammed with guests who got lost in its maze of ladders and corridors.

Seated women removed their high heels to clamber up passageways. Rock and rap were played loudly on the foredeck, which served as a dance floor. The vodka vanished before mid night, but the guests drank cheap table wine from the bottle and danced with abandon—a spell of plebeian revel from the outrageous atmosphere of more formal affairs.

**Stroke:** The last stop that night, at 3 a.m. was the Studio Cereus, the town's all-night disco. A giant champagne bottle hung from a dome ribbed with pink neon. The dancers looked apoplectic under shuddering strobe lights. At one point, the dance floor cleared and a woman appeared onstage in black lingerie, which she shed to the music. She performed a precise and passionless striptease, which ended with the closing of a red velvet curtain.

At the Circus, only the rich could afford to get drunk. Drinks cost £30 each, whether beer, whisky or champagne. Prices were not much lower at the Mignote Hotel bar, the place to see and be seen at night, where the standard ritual is to order Pons's Royale, a mass champagne-cocktail stuffed with fruit and mince leaves, at £35 a glass.

But the exorbitant prices seem to have provoked a backlash in Cannes, which is becoming better known for the grumpy palin than for the Golden Palm, its top award. In fact, this year many of the merchants—from costume

owners to stratospheric—were complaining that business during the festival was much slower than in previous years. The buyers and sellers of movies also pointed to a disturbing drought: Saul Zaentz, president of Circle Distributing of New York. "The energy's down and prices are up," Montreal-based distributor Jan Rothkopf of Films Transit agreed. "A lot of people notched up with the high prices and the attitude of the French," he said.

Moreover, the Cannes Film Market at beginning to suffer from competition by the other two major movie markets—Los Angeles in February, and Milan in October. But in Los Angeles-based publicity agent Michael Dellag, said there was still business going out of town. "With the soul-searching, the parties, the South of France—it's a sort of thing very cool," said Dellag. "Everybody comes to Cannes." Still, they spend a lot of time justifying the expense. And a staggering schedule of movies, parties and meetings leaves many attendees little time for more intimate pleasures. Maurice O'Donnell, a Toronto-based producer, recalled that the next time for a drink at last year's festival after running into him at several cocktail parties. "He sat out, and he said to me, 'There seems to be that special between us, but I'm very busy.' Then, he pulled out his Pico-Pico." Added O'Donnell: "It sort of took the romance out of the aviation."

**Art:** The pure essence of Cannes has faded from the golden years of the 1930s and 1960s, when it was synonymous with the art and glamour of movie-making. And although the fes-

tival still owes much of its legend to stagings, many of those stars are now seen to depict the place. After he was snubbed by critics in 1967, Paul Moravcsik vowed never to return. Last week, Stallone made a staged appearance on the terrace of the Carlton. Surrounded by about 50 bodyguards and hundreds of onlookers, he had a drink with some colleagues. Then, as he tried to leave, the fans swarmed his Mercedes and clanked all over it, scuttling the boat.

**Money:** Lise Svalberg, Eastwood and others, David Seltzer had close the past regime of the Cap while vowing Cannes to promote a movie that he had just finished shooting in Poland. "It's beautiful here, but I don't," he said, enjoying breakfast on a terrace overlooking the hotel's vast gardens. "I wouldn't want to stay here if I didn't have to go into Cannes." Of course, Svalberg—and his costar Anne Archer—were staying at the Cap at someone else's expense. Seltzer said, "If it was my money, I wouldn't spend a nickel to come to Cannes."

Cannes is an expensive-spectacle city. And some of those who spend their days playing with other people's money send the bubble of the Cannes' romance spend their nights squandering their own in the hotel's rooftop casino. The room is quiet, with chandeliers of blue-tinted glass. It bears no resemblance to Las Vegas: it is deathly quiet and no one smokes. Everyone seems to be moving in slow motion, as if in an opium trance. The players are mostly men. But a Paris-based Czech actress, who had been scripping together a long screenplay, Marilyn Monroe, showed up in a tight black dress embroidered with gold patterns and of uppers. She sat at the bar with her agent after losing 100 francs (\$200 C.) at roulette and another 200 francs at blackjack. The men looked up from the gaming tables and stared her with interest, winking the odds. Nobody made a move.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON in Cannes



Starbucked in Belgium: an agreement to direct for Canada's troubled cinema.

and one Donald Sutherland pitted against Allen and the producers. Originally, producers Nicolas Clement and Peter Kosminsky predicted that Sutherland would be cast in last year's Cannes festival. Then, they said that it would premiere at this year's festival. But, according to the producers, it was still not finished in time. They did, however, have the completed movie to the Cannes market to begin as a foreign sale. They also included the director from the last editing. In an earlier version prepared by Hane, Sutherland's life story unfolded in chronological order and "it put people to sleep," said Clement. The movie now skips back and forth between Sutherland's past and his life now in Cannes. "You're really here," said Clement.

Sutherland—in Cannes to promote *Erin Brockovich*, a movie that he has just finished filming in Poland—said Sutherland that he remains loyal to the director. "I would work

with Philip Brown again in three minutes," he said. Sutherland added, "I would agree to any life work again with Nicolas Clement and Peter Kosminsky." Sutherland has not seen the complete current version of the movie. He said that, although the producers sent an unpolished video version of *Belshazzar* to the set he was working on in Poland, he was able to watch only 20 minutes of it.

In Cannes, the producers quickly did more damage control after news broke from the screening. Clement announced that officials of both the Montreal and Toronto film festivals have agreed *Belshazzar* to be part of their programs. He added that foreign sales are proceeding well, although a large U.S. distribution deal as in *Belshazzar*. Sutherland said, but its troubles are not over yet.

B.D.J.

# FESTIVAL FANTASIES

## AT THE HEART OF IT ALL—THE MOVIES

The ritual took place in the soft early-evening light of the Mediterranean. Thousands watched from behind posh balconies. Many had stood for hours, and patiently awaiting royalty. Orchestral music blared as the blink for credits preceded the soldier staccato. 30 red-carpeted steps led to the cinema like a neo-futurist stairway to heaven. Long plumes of popcorn, strangely out of character as their mandatory function, flanked both sides of the red carpet. Stars were greeted. Cheers erupted. Endorsing of the Cannes International Film Festival (May 10-21), the pageant was repeated as the world's film-makers converged for the prizes to be awarded on the closing day.

The cinema functioned on the altar of festival competition, reaped from desirable winners by legendary veterans to wads of graphic realism by the suddenly conferred film-makers of Eastern Europe. The official program at Cannes included covers by these old masters of cinema. Directors by Joseph's Alain Resnais, *Waves of the Moon* by Federico Fellini and *New Year* by France's Jean-Luc Godard. All these are devoted, in radically different ways, to form and signifiers. Their stars disappear, even in the twilight of the cinema, dwell beyond of death. And with varying degrees of success, each of them defies narrative conventions with extreme poetic license.

Marie-Alexandre, veteran director, France's Bertrand Tavernier, offered a pastoral view of old age in *Un Dindon* (Nostalgia), featuring a highly praised performance by British actor Dirk Bogarde as a chronicler who must undergo a serious operation. Another French movie, director Jean-Paul Rappeneau's *Cinema de Beyrouth*, brought new style in a classic tale, with France's noblest Gérard Philipe playing a heroic figure. Among American directors, Clint Eastwood took a Minsk of modernism in *White Hunter, Black Heart*, a self-conscious safari into Africa based on the story of U.S. director John Huston's quest to kill an elephant. And David Lynch—creator of the acclaimed TV series *Twin Peaks*—was named as recipient for the outrageous with *Wild at Heart*, a psycho-



Isabelle Rossellini in Lynch's *Wild at Heart* at Beirut's critic.

melodrama that makes perverse allusions to Elton Presley and the Wizard of Oz. Starring Nicolas Cage and Lauren Bacall as lovers driving west through the United States on a blood-splattered version of the yellow brick road. *Wild at Heart* evokes the American dream with graphic violence. And, to honor a life from the script, the scene is "better than Georgia asphalt." For now, such odds, no movie matched Lynch's latest effort that Cannes produced some startling images from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Tati Selen, a film festival

by Soviet writer-director Pavel Lomov, presents a vivid portrait of a post-Soviet society at war with itself. It is an inventory of a society about a notable branding between an alcoholic soapbox player and a fascist neo-fascist. The musician, portrayed by Soviet pop star Pave Mamontov, is a reckless freedomer seduced by Western values. The taxi driver, who seduces with violence, is a proletarian who counts his life's violence and irresponsibility. Without taking sides, the movie asks their conflict to dramatize the rift between the warriors who are bewildered by new freedoms and the individuals who are quicker to take advantage of them. The movie also captures a side of Moscow that has never before been portrayed so vividly on film—an electric, garish night world that in fit up like Las Vegas. Another Soviet movie, *The Mirror*, as acclaimed three-hour saga, explored the pull between old and new values in Russia.

**Revels:** With the festivity of contemporary Tati Selen's direct portrait of the new freedoms in the Eastern Bloc, *Interrogative* provides a harrowing glimpse of a previous era. Filmed in 1981 by Polish director Krzysztof Kozlowski, now based in Toronto, *Interrogative* was banned in Poland until last year. A composite of several true stories, the movie is a brutal and scorching drama about the imprisonment and torture of a young, Catholic activist against under Polish's Soviet regime in the early 1950s.

In Cannes for the premiere, director Kozlowski explained that he finished filming *Interrogative* five days before Polish authorities declared martial law in 1981. After he finished filming the movie, the government banned it, confiscating the negative. That the film-maker had secretly made a video from it, and that video, thousands of underground copies were created and duplicated throughout Poland. Then, last year, the government released the negative from government archives, and the movie finally appeared commercially last Dec. 13, on the anniversary of the declaration of martial law. Still playing, it is a baroque film—and required viewing for Polish history students. Kozlowski has lived in Toronto since 1986.

## EASTERN EUROPEAN DIRECTORS ARE CHALLENGING THE MASTERS

with his wife and seven-year-old son. After a long struggle to find work, he was eventually hired to direct episodes of such TV series as *The Twilight Zone* and *ENG*. And while in Cannes, he was organizing his first Cannes festival, based on Toronto resident M. T. Kelly's unusual 1987 novel about natives and terrorists, *A Dream Like Mine*.

Rant and combative, Bogdan seems well-equipped to handle the controversy that such a move is bound to provoke. Despite his success at Cannes, he seemed irked by the whole experience. "I'm not very comfortable in this environment," he said. "It's competitive, I'm being judged. I'm far away—and that's not why I make films."

Intergovernmental cinematic sister, Polish actress Janczarska, seemed more at home in Cannes, where her performance in the film received rave reviews. In interviews, she revealed her distant memories of shooting the movie's torture scenes, which had required her to spend hours in a dampen filled with liquid water. But, after the recent political upheavals, Polish audiences now want lighter entertainment, she said. "It's good a few of these films have been made to show the truth," she added. "But, with democracy, everything has to change. We're going to have to make movies that audiences want to see."

**Cheer:** Janczarska also starred in Polish director Andrzej Wajda's 1981 classic about political repression, *Mother of Anna*. Wajda presented a new movie at Cannes outside the festival's official competition. Titled *Korczak*, it dramatizes the plight of Warsaw's Jewish ghetto during the Nazi occupation. Its Gorbachev-like hero is the legendary Jewish doctor Janusz Korczak, who ran an orphanage in Warsaw before dying in the death camps of Treblinka. The movie, which ends the ending of the Holocaust with an odd Christ-like vision of redemption, received a lukewarm reception.

But two other movies about repression generated



Eastwood: a self-conscious safari and a look at macho heroism

more enthusiasm. British director Ken Loach's gritty thriller, *Hidden Agenda*, dramatizes police terror and conspiracy in Northern Ireland with a documentary edge. And Italian director Gianni Amato's *Open Doors*, set in 1937's fascist Italy, opened the festival's Directors' Fortnight series, which highlights new filmmakers. A darkly apocalyptic war movie, it is about a Sicilian who commits three cold-blooded murders.

Meanwhile, Poliss, 70, Italy's most famous

director, shows signs of creative vitality with his new feature, *Wise of the Moon*. Inspired by *Flowers of a Lasting*, by Italian writer Eranesimo Cavasana, the movie is a sprawling and largely scintillating drama about luxury. Characters race about the dangers of greed flowing out of power, tape and wealth. And, in vintage Poliss fashion, he stages several wild spectacles with masses of extras. But most often, *Wise of the Moon* seems a shameless self-parody.

Kurosawa, too, reveals a self-conscious streak in his new movie—but in a more creative, disciplined fashion. With *Dromedary*, the legendary Japanese director of such serious epics as *Kagemusha* (1980) and *Ran* (1985) turns inward. Aided by Hollywood producer Steven Spielberg and *Star Wars* special-effects wizard George Lucas, Kurosawa, now 86, filmed eight episodes that he says are based on his own dreams. In these segments, the director is portrayed as a small boy, an adolescent and a grown man. As a child, he escapes into an animal skin. As a teenager, he escapes into a Japanese dream. As an adult, he escapes into a Japanese dream.

With *New Wave*, Godard, another of cinema's long legends, presents a less accessible but more audacious excursion into dream logic. A dandy layover composition of images, words and music, *New Wave* defies plot symposia. It involves a mystifying romance between a man (Alain Delon) and a woman (Bernice Gendreau), otherwise known as masquerades by a large communications conglomerate and housing views of Switzerland's Lake Lucerne. *New Wave* reflects reality into jarring poetic fragments. Eight years after Hollywood, Godard undoubtedly continues to explore the metaphysics of cinema. And as hope crowds chancel the sector of Godard and Delon up the red-carpeted steps to the highest altar of Cannes, it appeared that there is still room for art amid the commerce of Cannes.

BRIAN D. JOSEPHSON



Bogdan (left), Janczarska: a harrowing glimpse of Socialist Poland

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COVER



*Soderbergh, Franken: 'burning cars' and enough gossip to satisfy the curious*

## VERY PERSONAL INSIDE STORIES

### TWO MOVIEMAKERS WRITE ABOUT CANNES

**T**he Cannes International Film Festival offers in crops of glamour, art and romance unparalleled in the entertainment world. And for writers who suddenly find themselves in the spotlight, it can be a daunting experience. Two new books by American film-makers—*one*, a veteran screenwriter, the other, a novice writer and director—offer candid firsthand accounts of experience on the brown and red of Cannes. In *Hope and Glory*, script writer William Goldman writes a witty, off-the-cuff chronicle of how he served as a judge at both the Cannes festival and the Miss America Pageant in 1968. In *sex, lies and videotape*, director Steven Soderbergh reveals in diary form how his earlier career of the same name blossomed from script to screen, then captured the grand prize at Cannes in 1989.

The two books are made stories from the movie industry, but both authors write from the viewpoint of outsiders—baffled by the glories around them and bewildered by whatever situation comes their way. With Soderbergh, that is understandable: he was just 25 when he scored a huge hit with *sex, lies and videotape*, his first feature. Goldman, 58, is a seasoned Hollywood writer whose scripts for

Jackie Chan and the *Sandwich Kid* and *All the President's Men* won Oscars, and whose other credits include *Marathon Man* and *The Princess Bride*. But, over the years, he has learned to take nothing for granted. In his previous book about success and failure in the movie industry, *Adventures in the Screen Trade*, Goldman spelled out his personal creed in block letters and repeated it several times: "Nobody leaves anything."

**Broads:** That philosophy also informs *Hope and Glory*—an unexpected turn because Goldman, a jury member of both a movie competition and a beauty pageant, suddenly feels himself treated as an expert. The events are silly, interlarded gossip. In Cannes, young starlets try to establish their acting credentials by stripping on the beach in Atlantic City, N.J., Miss America contestants try to prove their artistic talent before posing in moments.

Goldman's book is easy to read—and witty despite. Like an exceptionally good talk-show guest, he keeps throwing from the subject at hand for the sake of a better story. His best gossip is personal. He throws in a funny chapter about the ordeal of looking for studs to fit his needs that in Los Angeles. He discusses the degradation of his 17-year marriage as

three of his trip to Cannes. He recalls the day he learned that his divorce lawyer was also the divorce lawyer for his wife's divorce lawyer. And, while lying about the extent of his trip to Cannes, he admits to a half-silly-silly about about the women behind the *Mr. Prince* contest.

At the same time, Goldman delivers enough industry gossip to satisfy the curious. He drops amusing anecdotes about working with Robert Redford and Paul Newman. He explains the tedious political diplomacy of sitting on the Cannes jury. And he exposes the outright absurdity of the decision-making machine behind the Miss America Pageant.

**More:** Goldman's light, witty prose has the flavor of discretion. But, as a professional writer on a woman's holiday, he seems to be enjoying himself. Among the rambling confessions and very observations, there is a revealing passage on the gap between the knees and the knees at Cannes—between celebrity and obscurity, anticipation and disappointment. Goldman concludes what he calls a "half-normal" exchange, between an attractive, unpretentious producer and a handsome state executive: "What are you doing tonight?" she asks. "What, tonight?" he says. "One-thirty," she replies. In his best Robert Ryan, he asks, "What do you have in mind?" The reply: "Seeing my movie. It starts there."

For all its blemishes, *Cannes* is still a tale of contrast for moviegoers. And reading can be an overwhelming experience, as Soderbergh discovered after sex, lies and videotape took the International Grand Prix, the best actor award and the coveted top prize, the Palme d'Or. In his book, the Cannes experience takes up only a few pages. But it is the celebration of a nearly two-year struggle. Soderbergh's book, which also includes the original script of *sex, lies and videotape*, is fully written yet oddly compelling. It is a raw diary, not a memoir. And, with the knowledge that the movie subsequently became a hit, it is fascinating to peer over the writer's shoulder to see how he in the early days had it all over yet made.

**Dreams:** Along the way, Soderbergh stubbornly resisted commercial pressures. He had to be persuaded that sex, lies and videotape was the best title—originally the film had the cryptic name *sex, lies and videotape*—and to shoot in color rather than black and white. He experienced discomfort at shooting sex scenes. And he decided not to show nudity—a decision that disappointed one of his producers.

After the audience that greeted early screenings of the movie in the United States, Soderbergh expected a backlash at Cannes. Instead, he recalls walking up to the podium with his "cars burning" to receive the Palme d'Or from Jane Fonda, and then being "trashed and frayed" by hundreds of photographers. Later, he writes, "Suddenly, I was king and all of a sudden, what happened, and I can't believe it." For once, Cannes lived up to its legend—outdoing Hollywood in the best of making dreams come true.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON



The fire: a study called the St-Amable site 'a time bomb waiting to go off'

## ENVIRONMENT

# The fire mountain

Battling the blaze at a Quebec tire dump

Yves Duchesne stood in a light rain beside his smoldering car and truck (see p. 28) at a huge repository where 3.5 million tires were stacked in a pile the height of a seven-story building. The cause of the fire that broke out at the tire dump last week was not immediately known. The blaze spread about 90 per cent of the tires, costing a black cloud of soot and smoke visible from as far away as Montreal. Members of environmental organizations warned that the fire threatened the health of local residents. They also expressed concern that the fire might affect leaching damage on surrounding soil and water because of

toxic chemicals seeping from the base of the blaze.

As about 50 farmers tried to contain the fire, the second in the past five years at the waste site, widespread criticism was directed at the Quebec provincial authorities. Opposition politicians blamed Premier Robert Bourassa's Liberal government for ignoring numerous warnings about the potential fire hazard posed by the St-Amable dump. "You can be sure we'll be accusing the government of criminal negligence," snapped an angry François Beaudin, the Parti Québécois member of the national assembly whose Montreal riding includes the depot.

Meanwhile, heavy rain in the area did cut down the situation. Within three hours the ferocity of the blaze simply turned the water to steam. As well, the rain hampered firefighters' efforts to contain the blaze and to carry out cleanup operations aimed at pumping toxic oil from the seeping tires from several pits. Firefighters had dug around the site. And truckloads of sand and gravel had to be transported to help seal access roads through vines and so that pumping equipment could be moved into the area.

Environmental and health experts and their

5,500 to leave their homes late Thursday as shifting winds threatened to redirect the smoke plume over the town. About 30 residents followed the mayor's advice.

While Duchesne did not blame experts for the disaster, other critics did. Following the Beauville fire, members of environmental organizations warned of the dangers posed by the St-Amable dump, where 10,000 tires caught fire four years ago. A 1988 study carried out by the Montreal-based Society to Abolish Pollution declared that the St-Amable depot was a "time bomb waiting to go off."

For his part, Quebec Environment Minister Pierre Parizeau came under heavy pressure to resign as a result of the St-Amable fire. At a news conference at Quebec City, Parizeau acknowledged that more effective safety measures should have been taken at the dump. Parizeau said that he asked his cabinet colleagues late February for \$5 million to make the seven large tire dumps in the province safer. The cabinet, however, granted only \$3.3 million. "As a result," said the minister, "we had to drop the priority measures we had hoped to get in place."

In the case of the dump at St-Amable, that involved erecting a perimeter fence and speeding up the installation of fire-retarding equipment to enable the waste material to be processed into rubber mats. Parizeau said that the site was too small to be closed down too large to permit the tires to be diverted into other piles. When the fire broke out, the security fence was only partially in place and the fire-retarding equipment on the site had broken down. Local residents such as Duchesne said that those failures, as much as the blaze itself, were what made the worst as they watched St-Amable's inferno of burning tires last week.

BARRY CAME in St-Amable

## HEALTH

# An addict's search

Canadians seek treatment in U.S. hospitals

Two years ago, a doctor told Nancy Corneil that she had liver disease caused by drinking too much alcohol. The 42-year-old artist said that, after she underwent treatment at a Vancouver hospital, she stopped drinking for six months. She returned to her hometown of Montreal, where she worked as a nurse at the city's general hospital. She was then diagnosed with alcoholism and drug counseling services that Corneil

with the Vancouver health department, said that many Canadians do not want to leave the real cause of addiction in society, and the Montreal police support her decision. He added that more public funding for treatment centres and "a change in societal attitudes towards people with addictions" are needed. The flow of Canadian addicts into U.S. treatment centres is motivated by the fact that



Need more money for more beds is only one solution

privately operated addiction centres in all provinces except Quebec cover most of the cost of inpatient treatment. In Ontario, where the provincial medical insurance will pay for 75 per cent of the cost of treatment in U.S. clinics, the provincial health ministry spent \$30 million in 1989-1990 to cover out-of-province addiction treatment—up from \$2.8 million a year earlier.

As a result, some U.S. treatment facilities have become accustomed to treating large contingents of Canadian patients. At Baylla Hospitals in Buffalo, N.Y., Canadian some-

times occupy as many as 35 of the 114 beds in the chemical-dependency wing. Hospital spokesman Vivian Beach said that Baylla treats patients at a cost of about \$410 a day, compared with \$280 to \$300 a day at Canadian institutions.

Even in Quebec, where medical insurance does not cover out-of-province treatment, some addicts go to the United States at their own expense rather than wait for treatment at home. Jean-Pierre Chasson, director of a Montreal addiction treatment centre, St-Jean-François, estimates that about 600-800 Quebecers suffer from drug or alcohol problems and that waiting periods for publicly funded Quebec treatment centres average from three to five weeks. Gerth Martin, head of socio-behavioural treatment services at the Toronto-based Addiction Research Foundation, said that many U.S. hospitals aggressively market their services in Canada. Indeed, advertisements for substance-abuse treatment at U.S. hospitals frequently appear in Halifax newspapers.

Some experts say that the shortage of Canadian facilities could be eased by making better use of existing ones. Brian Mac, an epidemiologist with the Community Programs Emulation Centre at the London, Ont., branch of the Addiction Research Foundation, said that most of Ontario's 213 treatment centres have waiting periods. But he added that funding for more beds is not necessarily the only solution. He said that it may be just as effective to hire more case workers to provide counselling, support and help for addicts through the waiting treatment process. Neil Ross: "It's a matter of being more efficient with what we have."

In other provinces, including Nova Scotia, basic programs for treating many forms of drug abuse simply do not exist. André Raccagnino, a member of the British-based Concerned Citizens Against Drugs, said that Nova Scotians who are addicted to cocaine or heroin are forced to seek treatment outside the province. He said that the only treatment available in the province is at detoxification centres, which are only designed to help addicts stop drinking totally. Raccagnino said that the provincial government is unsatisfactory because it does not provide any kind of continuing support program.

Said Mac: "The more you can help people deal with substances in their actual environment, the more useful it is." He added, "If there are any signs of drug abuse in your neighbourhood, the community, then the risk of relapse is going to be high." Indeed, many experts say that providing treatment that enables addicts to fight their problems closer to home could make the battle much easier to win.

NORA UNDERWOOD with correspondence

reports

# Freedom to learn

*A wave of Soviet academics reaches Canada*

In the hands of Mykola Senchenko, a large man with a warm smile, the Soviet passport is one small sign of the new freedoms that Soviet citizens enjoy. Suddenly, a wave of Soviet academics is on tour across Canada, part of a growing exchange of ideas unstrained for more than a decade since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan ended relations between the countries. The 45-year-old Senchenko, director of the Central Scientific Library of Ukraine, and two assistants were granted regular five-year passports before beginning a month-long tour of major North American libraries that brought them to Toronto last week. Their trip was also a sign of the changes now sweeping Soviet universities and research institutions. Senchenko said that he and his staff are compiling a bibliography of works about Ukraine—many of them banned by Soviet authorities in the USSR during the past 75 years, but smuggled out and published in the West. Said Senchenko: "It's extremely exciting for us. Before, we couldn't even dream of coming to Canada."

The new freedoms granted under Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost* have led the two nations to agree in a rapid expansion in the number and kind of academic exchanges between Canada and Soviet universities, and with other Eastern European institutions. Currently more than 30 Canadian universities have either begun discussions or signed agreements to undertake joint projects. Canadian academics say that the exchanges give them the chance to help their Soviet counterparts rebuild disciplines including law, sociology and political science after decades of repression and ideological orthodoxy. Said Marc Gold, a professor at Toronto's York University who is arranging a two-part Soviet-Canadian conference: "We have an enormous opportunity to make a contribution to the events in Eastern Europe."

Academic exchanges occurred in the pre-Gorbachev era, but Canadian professors say that they were difficult to arrange and in many cases, academically unproductive. Says John,

chairman of the physics department at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S., and that a leading Soviet physicist will be spending five months at the university this fall. John said that, in the past, Soviet activities would only flow visits of a few weeks. Canadian academics also say that the Soviet's sometimes anti-ideologically proven scientists, re-

sulted in, can now share information about their country with foreigners.

Meanwhile, the Ottawa-based Medical Research Council, which funds most of Canada's scientific research in health sciences, has set up a three-year, \$5-million exchange program to take advantage of the changes that have occurred in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Frances Rolleston, the council's director of scientific evaluations, said that the council received 55 applications by the May 1 deadline. He said that those who are selected will be paid to spend from three months to two years doing biomedical research in Canada.

Although Canadian and Soviet academics have taken advantage of the opportunities created by Gorbachev's reforms, some observers say that much greater potential exists. Archie Maclean, director of the University of Guelph's Centre for International Programs, said that the two countries have many similar



Senchenko (center), assistants Tetiana Babarenko and Tetiana Ananyenko exchange of ideas

problems of their students Robert Johnson, director of the University of Toronto's Centre for Russian and East European Studies, added, "Now, virtually anyone can get a visa to travel to the West, and we are getting much more diverse, interesting people."

In the new era of Soviet openness and freedom, academics from a broad range of disciplines have become involved in exchanges. Gold said that he hopes to hold a conference next spring in Toronto on ideologies, human rights and the rule of law. He said that six Soviet constitutional experts from the Moscow-based Institute of State and Law will be invited to deliver papers. Political scientist Fred Stebbins, who teaches at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, has arranged similar exchanges. Last December, seven sociologists from across Canada attended a conference with Soviet sociologists at Moscow and, this month, the same group held a working session at Guelph. Stebbins says that the visits to Canadian academics is that Soviet scholars are held formerly under political control, including politi-

cal and economic problems because of their members' climates and regional and ethnic diversity. Maclean said that such large-scale problems require multi-year, joint research programs involving groups of Canadian and Soviet institutions rather than individual scholars working on short-term research grants.

For the time being, however, individual academics in both countries are enjoying what was once unimaginable freedom to travel, meet and exchange ideas. Johnson said that the changes of the Gorbachev era have immensely altered the Soviet Union. "It's like Hungry Dumpy," he said. "So many slogans and myths have been called into question that they could never put them back together." For Ukrainian librarian Senchenko and his assistants, the arrival has created an opportunity to recover the literature and history that the Khrushchev suppressed during the dark decades. They are, said Senchenko, travelling to the West to register a lost chapter of Ukrainian history.

DAVID JENKINS

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THE WELL-INFORMED CHOICE

# A change of focus

Millionaire Robert Maxwell takes a gamble

As an ardent proponent of a united Europe, Robert Maxwell says that he dreamed for years of launching a newspaper that would be read all over Britain and the Continent. Three years ago, the Czechoslovakian-born British millionaire made plans to publish a newspaper modeled on the *Daily Mirror*, the best-selling, Maxwell-owned English tabloid that sells three million copies daily. Initially, potential advertisers gave Maxwell's plans a cool reception. But now, with political tensions between Eastern and Western European nations ebbing, the 60-year-old Maxwell is gambling that the time for a Europe-wide newspaper has arrived. Last week, presses in four European countries, Britain, France, West Germany and Hungary, printed the first issue of a broadsheet English-language weekly paper called *The European*, which went on sale in 36 European nations.

Officials at the London-based newspaper said that customers snuggled up all of the con-



Maxwell: 'I am *The European*'

million copies of the newspaper. Unlike most full-sized European newspapers, which have pages crisscrossed with type, the 64-page *European* contains only three or four major stories on each page, accompanied by large-color photographs. The lead story in the first issue focused on a poll indicating that 60 per cent of the European residents interviewed want a single European currency. Other articles included a piece by British Conservative MP Michael Heseltine, a potential rival to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, on European unity.

The newspaper, which sells for the equivalent of about \$1 in newsstands in most countries, received mixed reviews from critics. Thierry Despland, assistant editor at the Paris-based newspaper *Le Figaro*, described *The European* as "a good paper with a new look." But Richard Bracka, media critic for *The Observer* in London, wrote that the first issue lacked "the real passion of news and controversy that any newspaper must have."

For his part, Maxwell said that *The European* will go daily "as soon as the market situation permits." Meanwhile, a spokesman for *The European* said that the paper is doing at weekly sales of between 225,000 and 300,000. That is well above the current 150,000 circulation of the Paris-based international *World Tribune*, an English-language European newspaper that was first published in 1987. Maxwell said that he was prepared to spend about \$25 million during the next year to make the paper a success. If that is not enough, he added, "we will put up another" \$25 million.

Accord with the vision of a newspaper that would appeal to "Europe's opinion-formers and decision-makers," Maxwell persuaded Ian Watson, a former deputy editor and financial journalist for the London *Sunday Telegraph*, to become editor. In turn, Watson, 53, recruited a multilingual staff of 50 journalists. But Maxwell said his own involvement would be more than managerial. "I am the editor-in-chief," he told the London-based newspaper *The Independent*. "I am *The European*."

Media observers predicted that *The European* would enjoy a moderate success so long as Maxwell chose to pour money into it. In addition to the *Mirror* Group Newspapers Ltd., which publishes seven newspapers in Britain and had interests in newspapers in East Germany, Hungary and Bulgaria, Maxwell's holdings include business and consumer magazines and book publishers. But two of Maxwell's ventures have floundered in recent years. Last December, the Montreal *Daily News*, a joint venture by Maxwell and Montreal-based Quebec Inc., closed down after 33 months. In July, 1987, Maxwell's tabloid *London Daily News* died after publishing for five months. Now, said an industry specialist, the risk is that Maxwell "might find something else to play with, and then *The European* will be forgotten about." Indeed, Maxwell's reputation for hopping from one project to another has earned him the nickname of "the jumping Czech."

MARK KROGER with JEREMY HART  
in London

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## SPORTS

# The new Oilers of old

Glen Sather leads a return to eminence

It was not a vintage hockey season for the Edmonton Oilers, cut off of those years when they dominated it all winter long. They did not exactly sputter and stutter but, in finishing fifth overall in the 31-team NHL, they were less than the lethal force that they had been in the days of Wayne Gretzky.

Still, a distant cousin of the Gretzky made got them rolling when they were all but finished last month and suddenly they vaulted into overtime as what their deepest thinker calls character. They settled off 11 wins in their next 13 games, burying Winnipeg, Los Angeles and Chicago, and sped into the Stanley Cup final against the Boston Bruins with the verve and confidence of the Oilers of old. It was their first round appearance in the past eight years.

Their deepest thinker, of course, 46-year-old Glen Sather, who, through the 1980s, was their coach, general manager and president. Last June, he donated himself of one of those three tasks, starting upstairs and bequeathing the coach's mantle to underappreciated John Muckler, who turned 56 just

about the time the Oilers launched their stalling spree last month. Bladder, a tall, bearded, respected figure back of the Oilers bench, had acted as an assistant and co-coach with Sather for seven seasons.

In his years as the all-weathering general manager, Sather had led the expansion Oilers to the Stanley Cup final by the spring of 1983, when they were swept by the New York Islanders. That was the last time anybody took them for granted. The following five springs belonged to Gretzky and his armstrong supporting cast, such players as Grant Fuhr, Paul Coffey, Mark Messier, Glenn Anderson, Jan Kari and Kevin Lowe, who earned four Stanley Cups. And then, in August of 1986 came the electrifying fall in which Oilers owner Peter Pocklington got \$10 million from The Los Angeles Kings for the Los Angeles, Canada's own personal national treasure.

Gretzky's departure was a tremendous expense for him and his coach, Sather, but Sather, his hockey brain whirring constantly, patiently filled the gap. This spring, with the final cog of his careful ma-

Sather filling the gap



anovering in place, he has assigned the local citizenry and greatly enhanced the more prosperous chapters of owner Pocklington's living to a ripe old age. Luckily for the bearded owner, time can be made and have short memories, and the restoration of Oiler pride and eminence has all but erased the memory of Wayne the Wizard.

This year's Stanley Cup march got the fans mugging toothily into the television cameras again last week, but Sather, the architect of this return to eminence, has maintained a typically reserved facade. "The story is about the character guys on the team, the veterans and the way they've led the kids," he said the other night following an Oiler goal by Czechoslovakian expatriate Peter Klimek after 55 minutes and 13 seconds of overtime play in a heart-up old encounter over-cold the Boston Garden. This was the longest game in a Stanley Cup final series in NHL history. For his part, Klimek had become an Oiler through Sather's arduous backing and filling.

Losing Gretzky to Los Angeles, he got high-sounding Jimmy Carson in return. But Carson, a Michigan native, did not fit the Oiler mold, and Sather sat patiently while the Detroit owner, Mike Ilitch, showed growing interest in acquiring the native son. At length, Sather summoned four Red Wings for Carson, one of them Klimek.

Sather, Sather's patience landed him goaltender Bill Ranford from Boston for Andy Moog, who was dissatisfied as the backup goalie behind superstar Grant Fuhr. When Fuhr was sidelined by injury, Ranford's exceptional work was a key to Edmonton's comeback against Winnipeg.

However, the aspect of the back-from-the-brink series with Winnipeg that Sather figures inspired Edmonton's surge to the final (at one point, the Jets were up three games to one) was the resurgence of a forward line of young guns: Adam Graves, Martin Gelinas and Joe Murphy. "Their speed and enthusiasm picked everybody up," Sather said. "They showed a lot of character." And where did Gelinas, Murphy and Graves come from? Why, Gelinas from Los Angeles, the Gretzky trade, the other two from Detroit for Carson.

Sather operates in a job-back, second-best, seldom raising his voice. A six player for 16 paymaster years with no real scars, he could not put the puck at the nose, but the notion that he does not know all there is to know about hockey appears to have faded him. Perhaps if he had some of the current thinkers has a winning record to match his.

He dresses expensively, in leisure and world-famous and highly competitive. I asked him the other day what he meant by that word "character," he leaned on. "Oh, guys who ride in line," he said quietly. "Guys who take pride in the team, who won't give up. You know, guys with character."

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## PEOPLE

### Up for the challenge

While actor Les Carlsen was a 1970s *Tony Award* playing a killer harbor in the Broadway musical *Smash*, the 51-year-old actor of Winnipeg says that he prefers dramatic roles and more serious audiences. Now starring in *Montreal*, an off-Broadway play in which he portrays former U.S. Supreme Court justice William Douglas, Carlsen adds that he knows off the Great White Way are "more knowledgeable about theatre—and more sophisticated."



Aspires a possible farewell

### Old glory

A military legend, now being mistaken around the world, one of the most potent weapons at the U.S. stockpile returned home last week. Dick Hays, the 56-year-old comedian with the *Three-and-Stripes* troupe, says that his days of sustaining American troops overseas are now over—probably. After returning home to Los Angeles after shows in Berlin and Moscow, Hays—who began touring in 1941—said, "This could be the farewell." While Hays says that he will still perform in the United States, he adds that he will not make future global tours, "unless something dramatic happens."

### PLAYING ROLES WITH TROUBLE

Actress Theresa Russell says that she enjoys portraying women "who are out of control." The 33-year-old Russell, who starred in a *madwoman* with *Golden Winger* in the popular 1987 movie *Black Widow*, now plays a *potemkin* in the just-released *Impulse*. She says that she wants to play even *mad* roles, but adds, "I just don't get offered those parts because of Hollywood stereotyping." Still, Russell, who has often played *underdogs*, says that playing such women is *rewarding*. She added, "The roles are more demanding, challenging and gratifying."



Russell's women out of control

### Honoring a golden carat

*Bugs Bunny* strikes. The popular cartoon character turns 50 on July 27 and, to mark his golden anniversary, his image will appear on commemorative underwear, videotapes and car mats. The cartoon "bunny" will also gain new fame when 65 classic TV episodes are released this year. In each of these, Bugs was, like that, *Elder Paul*.



Bugs: underwear and car mats

### Aspects of dreaming

When Montreal-born singer David Mink was Andrew Lloyd Webber's *first* *Christ* in *Jesus Christ Superstar* in London in 1976, he was so inspired that he memorized every song in the show. Mink, 25, returns to London next week, but this time he will be on the stage, playing *Jesus*, a Jewish teenager, in Lloyd Webber's new hit, *Aspects of Love*. He was the part last March after a grueling two-hour audition in New York City, where a production of *Aspects* opened last month. Mink will be well prepared for his London debut. For the past 14 months, he played a student in the Toronto production of *Les Misérables*. Prior to that, he spent three years playing various parts in the Canadian production of Lloyd Webber's *Cats*. But he says that his central role in the composer's latest work will make a lifelong dream. "At that moment," says Mink of his first brush with Lloyd Webber's work 14 years ago, "I knew that was something I wanted to be part of."

# Manic mayhem

Three outlandish comedies reach the screen

In the next few weeks, the big movie studios will release three most ambitious films in highly forlorn hope of assuaging audiences that sit at home, three hours after producers, all of them comedies, are stating claims on megaflops.

**Back to the Future Part II** represents a risk for Hollywood—the shooting of two sequels back to back. Director Robert Zemeckis spent 13 months last year making two movies that contrast the story of his 1985 hit, *Back to the Future*. And, in another tradition-defying move, the producers have released the two installments only six months apart. That frenetic schedule seems only to have enhanced the comic timing of the latest—and, the producers claim, final—entry. *Back to the Future Part II* finds perfect and funny, it has even more of the giddy charm that made the two earlier films enormously successful. And Caudrey Tinsell's Mary, still shown as a recent time-traveler, is off to the future, even as she plays the tricks of credibility by cooing to be a pre-teen. Still recovering from an eye-opening trip to 2013 and a more recent, unpleasant fiasco with the town bully, Bill Tannen, in 1985, Mary and her now-10-year-old son (Christopher Lloyd) want nothing more than to return to the present. But no sooner do they give up Doc's time-traveling DeLorean again than they stumble upon a timehole that tells of Doc's death by shooting in 1985. Doc, at times, has lived some convincing behind Mary's back and has established a parallel existence in the Old West. With no time to waste, Mary ditches into the DeLorean, fastens his seat belt and heads off into the past.

Arriving in a remote version of their home town, Hill Valley, Mary finds that Doc, a blacksmith, has already assumed the work of one of Bill Tannen's associates, a beleaguered gunslinger nicknamed "Mad Dog." Armed with a photograph of Doc's tombstone, Mary convinces him to prepare to return to the future before Mad Dog finds him out. But there is one hitch: Can Mary successfully, a pretty new schoolteacher, has captured Doc's heart? Doc's education forces a ironic twist: Mary to take on the role of scientist and perfect a plan for getting him and Doc back to the future. On the way is a hilarious climax, the DeLorean after time-warps past another accident. In one scene, the owner of a shooting gallery at the town festival asks Mary when he intended to shoot so straight. Referring to conversation with Mary, she says, "Seven-Eleven." With little acting by Fox and Lloyd, the movie is a first-rate comedy where love tri-

umphs over the petty demands of plausibility.

**Cadillac Man** stars Robin Williams as Jerry O'Connell, a manic car salesman whose fast-lane life is going into overdrive. He is juggling two flaky mistresses, an ex-wife and an errand daughter while trying to repay a loan to the Mob. Meanwhile, in order to keep his job, Jerry has to sell at least a dozen cars in 24 hours. Such an, *Cadillac Man looks as if it's shaping up to be a breezy farce, a happy excuse for some of Williams' high-octane humor.*

But the film shifts gears suddenly when Larry (Tim Robbins), the jealous husband of

understanding from Jerry. As Larry is transformed from a rifle-toting tacit bomb into just another invisible goof with a gun, it becomes clear that Jerry O'Connell—and the audience—have been sold a bill of goods. The real comic man in *Cadillac Man* is the scriptwriter.

**Based on a Wife**, a featherweight comic thriller starring Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn, features some exceptionally good shots of a gun-toting, a helicopter and a motorcycle, among other things, exploiting into photogenic details. About the only thing that does not catch fire in the rapid, frantic exercise directed by John Badham (*Saturday Night Fever*) is the movie itself. The central character is Rich Goldman, a mediocre party animal who landed against some bad guys 15 years ago. Since then, the authorities have provided him with a series of false identities. At the movie's outset, he is a mechanic when he encounters his former girlfriend, a lawyer named Marianne (Hawn), who thought he was dead. Meanwhile, the villain, now on the loose, has picked up his trail.

Rich and Marianne become fugitives, tearing around on a variety of vehicles. He puts the



Lloyd (left), Fox more of the giddy charm featured in the two earlier films

pedal to the metal while she hangs on and screams. Although she is supposed to be a clever woman, Marianne looks like a speed-out tactic in her short, fiery skirts and tight blouse. Good and easy, Gibson plays the role in the understating ring of Rick. On the way to a Indiana climax at a zoo, the story makes several dubious detours, including an encounter with a stoat-piggy pig of gray hair. There is only one genuinely surprising moment: Rich and Marianne once find the crop duster after sending some gunshots in a helicopter down at them. So why landed, Rich says, "This thing will right now go." For once, it does not. *Based on a Wife* has the inimitable confetti of a turkey.

VICTOR DIFTER, BEARIE TUCKER  
and PAMELA WEING



David with Blanche, Sister: he paved the way for other black performers

## OBITUARIES

# A legend bows out

Cancer claims entertainer Sammy Davis Jr.

He was the self-described "literate, unswayed, natural guy" whose trademark included a client-filled phone booth, a carpool, a laugh and a booming singing style that made him a big attraction on Las Vegas nightclubs. Last week, the six-decade career of entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. came to an end when he died of throat cancer in Los Angeles at the age of 64. In his heyday, Davis was a charter member of Hollywood's so-called rat pack, a hard-drinking, hard-partying group of performers that included Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Peter Lawford. Throughout the 1950s, Davis teamed up with various members of that group to make such love-ins—but popular—musicals as *Jobney Cook and Robin* and *The Seven Dials*. But Davis's stature was based on more than his recordings and screen performances. In his own, still vibrant persona to give acceptance in the U.S. entertainment industry, Davis paved the way for many other black stars.

Davis was born in Harlem in 1915. When his parents divorced in 1928, his father moved custody of the young boy—soon, father and son were traveling the theatre circuit with fellow musician, Bill Monroe, performing song and dance routines. During the 1930s and 1940s, Davis found fame as a recording artist and as an actor in such films as *The Deep End* (1955) and *Prize* and *Don't Bother Me* (1958). In 1960, he said that he was always aware of the burden put on his way by racial prejudice. Davis wrote in his 1980 autobiography, *SWAG*, that he never forgot the humiliation of playing a hotel where he couldn't get a room

because of his color, and of being racial caricature in films that he was performing.

But Davis refused to conform to the standards of his time. In 1964, after losing his left eye as a car accident, he converted to Judaism—a move he attributed partly to a nurse who visited him in hospital. Six years later, he married white Swedish actress Mary White. His first marriage, to dancer Lory White in 1948, lasted only a few months. And, in 1973, he publicly supported Republican Richard Nixon's re-election to the White House—a decision that led several friends to abandon him. Davis will probably be most fondly remembered for his commitment to giving delivery of such 1970s musicals as *The Godfather Musical* and *Disco*—and for the legacy of inspiration he gave to other performers and to fans in the weeks preceding his death, hundreds of actors arrived at his Beverly Hills home, where celebrities including Liza Minnelli, Dean Martin and Sinatra paid their final visits.

On hearing of his death last week, comedian Bob Hope briefly suspended Davis's accomplishments as an entertainer, saying simply, "Sammy always left his audience wanting more." But singer Michael Jackson tonight said that was perhaps the star's spot lasting legacy: "He was the person who started to bring back a tradition to Davis held last November in Los Angeles, when Davis attended with his third wife, Debbie. There, as a song he had written to thank them for his tribulating achievements in a black performer, Jackson said, 'It is here because you were there.'"

VICTOR DIFTER

# The muppet magician

Kermit's creator appealed to the child in everyone

Just Henson's conquest of children's imagination began 34 years ago with a remnant of an old green cat and two Pig-Pig-Pig. That a teenager living near Washington, he created a puppet in the shape of a well-meaning, gaudy frog. That was the precursor to what would evolve into an internationally renowned cast of puppet characters, including Kermit the Frog, his sometime girlfriend Miss Piggy and an assortment of other comical creatures. He called them Muppets, and they are the seminal legacy of Henson, who died of pancreatic last week at the age of 53. As started the TV program *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show*, they brought Henson's talent to 230 million viewers in 180 countries. And by last August, their popularity, and that of a string of other Muppet-like creatures that Henson created, enabled him to announce the sale of his New York City-based production company, Henson Associates Inc., to the Walt Disney Co. for \$180 million.

Henson gave his Muppets their professional debut in 1954 when, along with his father-in-law, Joe Rapch, he produced the night, five-minute program on a local Washington TV station. By the mid-1960s, Henson and his offbeat creations were regulars on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. But Henson's big break took place in 1969, when the New York-based children's television network, Washington area's WTTG, decided to make Muppets as Kermit, the children's big Red and the marmoset Cookie Monster. In 1970, the weekly *Muppet Show* began a five-year run that would cement many adults into Muppet—and Henson—devotion. In 1981, several of these fans campaigned successfully to have Miss Piggy nominated for an Academy Award for her role in *The Great Muppet Caper*, the second of three popular Muppet movies.

In recent years, Henson, a father of five, achieved only modest success in the entertainment world. *Labyrinth*, a feature film that he directed in 1986, was only mildly successful. And his first attempt at hosting a weekly variety show, *The Jim Henson Show*, was cancelled after 10 episodes last year. But Kermit and his children's program led into a new wave of Muppets which Henson co-produced with DIC TV, enjoyed four seasons on the air in the mid-1980s, and it is now syndicated in 36 countries. Thanks to Disney, such Muppet characters as Goofy and Mickey, along with Kermit and Miss Piggy, have become enduring fixtures in the world of childhood.

V.D.



Scene from *The Piano Lesson*: a moving story told with humor, poignant dialogue

## THEATRE

# Spotlight on drama

Broadway hosts a wealth of serious plays

Months have traditionally captured the spotlight on Broadway. And this year, they continue to demonstrate the best of what magical-elastic improvisation means: from Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest, *Aspects of Love*, to the rags-to-riches classic *Coppy*. But it is also an unusually strong season for drama on the Great White Way. Last fall, Tennessee Williams's *Copycat* (Broadway and such new works as Aaron Sorkin's *A Few Good Men* were among the highlights. Now, the spring's new Broadway hits include five serious plays, three of them featuring major film actors. And off-Broadway, Kevin Kline is adding *Major Domo* to *Round*, which he directed last year at The Public Theater. Harvey Fierstein, executive director of the Manhattan-based League of American Theatres and Producers, says that not only has serious drama been making a stronger showing in the past few years, but the quality of the plays is better. "The most significant trend I see is the arrival of some astounding new young writers," he added. "And this time there's the continued good work being done by August Wilson."

Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*, which last month won the Nick American playwright his second Pulitzer Prize for best drama (his first was for *Ammer*, 1987), is one of the hottest tickets on

Broadway. Playing at the Walter Kerr Theatre, it tells a funny, moving and provocative story about a black family from the American South. It is set in 1906 in Pittsburgh, where the widowed Bernice Charles, formerly of Mississippi, is living with her sons Darius and her daughter, Marsha. The household is a bundle over Bernice (St. John Melson) who works as a maid for a wealthy white family, while Darius (Carl Lumbly) is a railway cook. One of their few luxuries is the ornately carved piano that sits in the parlor. The instrument is treasured with Charles' family history: its former owner, a white slaveholder, traded two of Bernice's slave ancestors for the piano, but great-grandfather carved images of family members on it, and Bernice's father was killed in rebellion for stealing it.

For the strong-willed Bernice, the piano is an implacable souvenir of her family's agonized past. But, to her sharp-tongued brother, Boy Willie (Charles S. Dutton, visiting from Mississippi), it is a route to equality—a piece of merchandise that could be sold for enough money to buy the land that his ancestors worked as slaves. Through the struggle that develops between Bernice and Boy Willie, Wilson explores how black people can release the past without losing sight of their roots.

The first half of the play is rich with humor

and poignant dialogue as the characters gather at Bernice's house to drink, eat and reminisce. Rocky and full of life, Dutton is engaging as Boy Willie, a man obsessed with owning his own land. And opposing her son Lyones (as Wilson's Boy Willie's daughter, daughter Annie, and Rocky Carroll as Lyones), his glibly friend, But, in the second act, Dutton's acting becomes over-the-top as the symbolism of the piano becomes dominating. And the play's slipperiest and most radical, which involves a ghost, seems a little out of place.

New York City-bound playwright Craig Lucas also has a hit with his offbeat drama *Prelude to a Kiss*, playing at Broadway's Helen Hayes Theatre. It begins conversationally, with a courtship and marriage. The suburban Peter (Kevin space Timothy Dalton), who works for a New York company that makes macabre, meets the mildly eccentric Rita (Mary-Louise Parker), a bartender, and they marry on weeks later. But something went happen at the wedding. A strange old man (Darius) (Hugues) kisses Rita, and she begins to change drastically. It turns out that his soul has invaded her little body, while she feels herself in his corrupt skin.

Lucas has set out to create a fairy tale about the devilry of love. When Peter discovers what has happened, he proves his commitment by continuing to love Rita in her new, decidedly unsettling exterior. The play's first scenes, however, lack the wit and passion necessary to prepare for the fantasy that follows. But they are strong glimpses of a courtship, the talent starts, the audience's conversation and the characters that make love seem so risky. Writer Lucas and director Norman Reed are so intent on satirizing middle-class conventions of romance: love—Peter and Rita go through their wedding like automata. They did to establish a truly deep bond between the couple. Marsha's Peter is charming but bloodless, while Peter's Rita seems too cold and insatiable to love deeply.

Another current success, *Let's Get Lost*, is a play that runs at the Booth Theatre in London, before reaching Broadway's Broadway Theatre, is enough to restore faith in the power of plain, old-fashioned theater. British playwright Peter Shaffer, who wrote the play *Amadeus* and the film *Amadeus* based on it, has created a role that seems tailor-made for actress Maggie Smith. She is outstanding as Letitia Brown, a four girls in Fanny Hill, a historic country manor outside London so unworldly that she is often obliged to send elaborate tales of events that never took place there. The town is portrayed by her flighty of her, but her over-the-top, as Letitia Brown, is a true success (Margaret Tyacke), is outgated

It is a play about theater. And it affords Smith an opportunity to do what she does best: reveal in language language with flawless eloquence. Meanwhile, Tyacke makes an excellent lead, a symbol of the girls, unworldly world of what Letitia Brown is in the "new" world of the theater of architecture, the play branches an unorganized attack on modernism, modernism and anything the gods the gods that Letitia brings to life. And Shaffer's beautiful against the beauty of Thackeray's Britain is history—a resounding triumph over "the men."

Another Broadway hit seems designed to showcase a star—Kathleen Turner. In fact, Turner's agent appointed producers with the idea of mounting Tennessee Williams's 1969 play, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and her celebrity is likely the main reason that audiences pack the Eugene O'Neill Theatre night after night. The role of Maggie the Cat—the salty southern belle who tries to force some signs of blood

Charles Dunning, as the sick and weary Big Daddy, finally takes the stage in the second act. Turner's shortcomings become clear by contrast: Dunning's southern accent is as letter this year, but he melts into the character and his voice fits the theater.

Cat's staging is instead a dry, living room furnished as rather against a dark backdrop of trees draped in Spanish moss. But British director Howard Davies brings a crude moon moonlight to the Williams' melodrama. His production lacks the palpable tension of the memorable 1955 scene when Turner starred Bluebell Taylor and Paul Newman.

Broadway's new version of *The God of Us*, based on John Staudacher's 1939 novel about Oklahoma statehood, is a comedy. It is a comedy about a failed patch of American literary ground. And it, too, stands in the shadow of a recent classic, the 1940 movie starring Henry Fonda as the heroic Ose, Tom Joad. Still, the \$1.7-million production at the

great curtain of water forms a cascade across the front of the stage. Despite the crackling of thunder, it still looks like a wonderful in a fancy mall. Staudacher's effects are not just distracting, they undermine the drama's theme of American era stability.

By contrast, Kline's *Major Domo* at the Public Theatre is an exceptionally sharp production. The set is a simple except for two black pillars and a large, brightly lit curtain at the back. The lighting is simple, and the modern-day costumes are mostly simple. With such careful staging, what comes to the fore are Staudacher's language and the psychological complexities of the characters.

That point is of pressure on the actors, and the supporting cast, particularly St. John Melson as Ophelia, is merely excellent. But Kline's *Major Domo* is unimpaired. His portrayal of the Danish prince comes alive when Kline draws out his character's wit and black humor. It is as if Kline who melted at porting a complex character in the movie *A Few Good Men*, now Kline in a sort of denatured way. When Staudacher's lines call for anticipation and surprise, the actor simply does not deliver convincingly. He handles the "To be or not to be" soliloquy with a molten, bordering on vulgar. Still, the production on the whole is striking—whether you think serious drama has vigor and star power this season in Manhattan.

PATRICIA HILCHY and BRIAN D. JOHNSON in New York



Smith (left), Tyacke: attacking modernism and anything looking good

for him or his husband, Birdie—who she Turner seems, superficially at least, here to play. She has the steady voice, the unshattering presence, the air of sexual success. And she certainly looks the part. For most of the first act, which Maggie dominates, she slinks around the stage, and when she boasts that "nothing's fallen on me, not a fraction," the class is visible.

But while Turner is physically commanding, her performance seems aimed. Her voice, so seductive in the intimate confines of a movie set, does not project well in the theatre. Her southern accent is unconvincing. And she appears to be applying so much energy to the sheer mechanics of the role—simulating a Dixie drawl and gesturing body here—that she is little room left for acting. When

Cat Turner, created by Chicago's Regener Theatre Company, provides an ambitious, sensitive and carefully lit adaptation of the Staudacher novel. Adapted by Frank Galati, captures the earthy lyricism of Staudacher's prose in his script. The production Staudacher's critical sense of Rose of Sharon Lewis: finding a strong stranger, which was aimed from the movie. And after Gary Busse, who leads a 35-member cast, creates a sense of mood. Tom Joad, making Fonda's image somewhat a companion.

But the production is too ambitious for its own good. Despite the barren look of the set, the stagecraft almost overwhelms the drama. Men at around six o'clock. An actor steps off his clothes and jumps into a river—a large pool built into the stage. Later, a even more. A

## Maclean's

### BEST-SELLER LIST

#### FICTION

1. *Second of My Youth*, Mervyn (2)
2. *September*, J. Edgar (2)
3. *Thomas Becket*, Mervyn (2)
4. *The Shrike*, King (2)
5. *Sherry*, King (2)
6. *The Burning Heart*, Allen (15)
7. *Golden Sea*, Smith (15)
8. *An American*, Mervyn, Dancer (15)
9. *The Secret of the Island*, Lillian (15)
10. *Dances and Dances*, Jones (15)

#### NONFICTION

1. *Sherry*, King (2)
2. *Sherry*, King (2)
3. *Sherry*, King (2)
4. *Sherry*, King (2)
5. *Sherry*, King (2)
6. *Sherry*, King (2)
7. *Sherry*, King (2)
8. *Sherry*, King (2)
9. *Sherry*, King (2)
10. *Sherry*, King (2)

By Patricia Hilchy

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## A final warning about the last frontier

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

The old joke about *The New Yorker* is that it isn't as good as it used to be—and never was. The started magazine of Harold Ross and James Thurber was the stuff of legends. The whole environmental problem first came to public attention when it printed excerpts from Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, detailing how we were poisoning the earth with pesticides. America was shocked into reality when an entire issue was devoted to John Hersey's description of Hiroshima after the first atomic blast.

One suspects an equal impact is going to come from the May 14 issue. A piece called "The Ancient Forest" spreads over 28 pages and runs to 23,000 words. Reporter Catherine Casfield, with cold, devastating facts, shows what has been done to the Pacific forest. It is, in fact, extraordinarily researched and done with a global vision. An American magazine deals with Alaska, Washington state and Oregon but, in taking a look at what goes on in British Columbia, presents a picture that will shake that province.

Casfield starts by pointing out that this was once a forested planet. Greece was covered with trees. Rome had forests, not deserts. Forests covered England and Ireland, as they did Germany and Sweden. When the first European settlers came to North America, they of course saw a great source of riches. By 1850, lumber production was the No. 1 manufacturing industry in the United States.

Lopping, after exhausting the Atlantic coast, moved as west, "driving from one virgin forest to another, like a threshing machine from one ripe wheat field to the next." At the Pacific, the loggers came up against the last frontier—the greatest conifer forest on earth. The Pacific forest stretches for 2,000 miles from Alaska almost to San Francisco and, says the writer, contains some trees that are 2,000 years old—the largest and oldest trees in the world.

About 80 per cent of the U.S. Pacific forest has now been destroyed, most of it in the past 40 years. In the United States, less than 16 per cent survives. In both countries, almost all the trees are on public land—and will be cut for



lumber, plywood and pulp for export to Japan.

Casfield's point is that all the attention is being put on the forest in the Brazilian rain forest. But the Pacific forest is a true tropical rain forest. It is home to "a greater number of life than even the tropical rain forests." The biologists and ecologists rushed to study the tropical rain forests while, until recently ignoring the endangered Pacific Northwest.

She shows how the U.S. Forest Service manages the forests on a day-to-day basis and grants marine logging rights through competitive bids. But in British Columbia, private companies are licensed to log—and manage—the public forests in perpetuity. A University of Victoria study says more than 90 per cent of the province's public forests are under the control of just four groups of linked companies: the Bentley-Prentice group, the Minto-Scott group, the Brumfiel, Brumfiel & Demers group, and the "Sauter,

Chang, Kitchner & Fletcher group.

She tells Americans how much information is Canada on timber cutting and fees for licenses is kept private. "Citizens have no right to take either licenses or the government to court for alleged violations of management plans."

The limit on clear-cut logging in the United States is 40 acres in most national forests and 100 acres in Alaska. She says there is no limit on the size of clear-cuts in British Columbia. One clear-cut site near the Bowen Lakes in British Columbia covers more than 180 square miles—"It is one of few manifestations of man visible from space."

Casfield is most convincing in showing how present logging practice—getting "rid of" old-growth timber—disrupts the ecology system. A 1,000-year-old tree that falls to the forest floor may take 400 years to decompose, but is doing so provided the nutrients that nourish the forest. Extensive logging on the Pacific is endangering the breeding ground for the most productive salmon fisheries in the world.

Unlike the U.S. Forest Service, the B.C. forest service "makes no pretense of managing its public forests equally for timber and other uses. The single goal of its timber management is to create a prosperous timber economy." It was a social contract. The companies were given five acres to public forests, in return for providing work. But by allowing overcutting, Victoria has contributed to the destabilization of the industry. Logging jobs in British Columbia have dropped 25 per cent—while record profits are now being recorded—and Casfield notes that once-prosperous mill towns, such as Nanaimo and Chemainus, to remain alive sponsor belated races, International Hell's Angels conventions and cover their walls with murals celebrating the glory days of logging.

Most old-growth wood is used wastefully—cut into two by four for fence houses, raw cedar milled into boards for painted concrete and then thrown away, ancient hemlocks pulped for disposable diapers. "When a 400-year-old tree ends up as some baby's ass," she quotes one Alaskan, "it's as much as all that's good and right with the world."

Fast-growing, nurse-grown wood from plantations can do most of the jobs now being done by wood from the ancient forests. In the meantime, *The New Yorker* reminds us, the logging companies protest they are farmers, harvesters that come along every six months—rather than decades and centuries. If any Canadian journalist won't log out the facts on our Pacific forest, designers have to



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